

SCAN

WHO IS THE MOST-FEARED STRIKER?

We ask Football League defenders

SHOOT!

12th MAY, 1979

18p

**IN ACTION-
KEVIN KEEGAN
FOR HIS
CHAMPIONSHIP-
CHASING CLUB**

**Special report
with colour photos**

West Brom's long-serving Tony Brown (stripes) beats Southampton's Steve Williams and sets up another attack

The REAL Brian Clough- by his brothers Bill and Gerald

If there's one man in football who provides more intrigue than the rest together it has to be Brian Clough.

Even grandmas in rocking chairs and aborigines in the Australian desert have heard of "Cloughie" and his eccentric ways.

But what sort of a man is the Nottingham Forest manager really?

It's the question anyone who has ever come into close contact with him is inevitably asked, and

we asked it ourselves to two men who should know — Brian's brothers Bill and Gerald.

Bill lives in the Lake District and Gerald is a newsagent in the Midlands, but both keep in close contact with the most famous of the six Clough brothers.

Does Brian discuss his managerial problems with his brothers?

Gerald: "Not really. He lives football for 90 per cent of the week, so we try to take his mind off it when we get together as a family.

"Sometimes he'll come to my shop on a Sunday and if he's had one of his outspoken interviews printed we'll joke about it selling more papers, but otherwise we try to steer clear of football."

It wasn't always like that of course.

Bill: "Where we grew up in the North-East football was just about the sole topic. Every boy had dreams of playing in the First Division and Brian was no exception.

"He always wanted to win at everything and we were only remembering recently how I used to fancy my chances at tennis until I played Brian one day and he thrashed me off the court."

In those early days was it possible to spot Brian's brilliant capabilities?

Bill again: "Oh yes, he always



knew where he was going and I was never in doubt that he would go right to the top.

So back to the original question. What sort of a man is Brian?

Gerald: "He's all heart. Honestly he's a great family man who'll do anything for his brothers and sisters, and also for anyone he believes to be sincere.

Bill: "That's right but I believe the public have got a totally false picture of the real Brian Clough.

"Whenever he used to appear on

television or on the radio they loved Brian to be controversial, and he generally obliged."

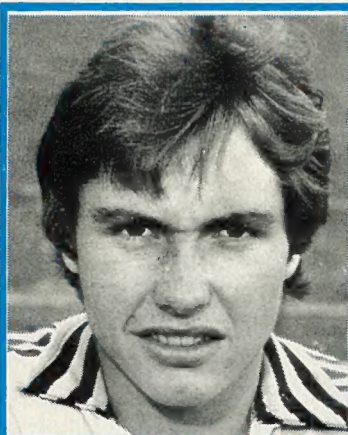
Gerald: "He doesn't hog the headlines quite so much now and I put that down to maturity.

"Even so he's still worth listening to when he does speak, and I hope that one day he achieves his ambition of managing England."

Bill: "Yes it will be England's loss, not Brian's if he doesn't get the job one day."

I certainly agree with that!

NEWS Compiled by Peter Stewart DESK



SPORTING TAIT'S

SPORT is quite a family business in the Tait family . . . no not that hilarious collection of the ITV series "Soap" . . . but at Malton in Yorkshire.

Dad, Bob Tait, played for Sunderland, Sheffield Wednesday and Chelsea in his time.

The oldest brother, Gavin, is a P.E. teacher in Southampton; David (left) is a professional right-back with Burnley and also had schoolboy service with Hull and Leeds, while young Simon is going to sign for Leeds when he leaves school.

DUNDALK are the new League of Ireland Champions. This is the fifth time the border club have won the title in their 60 years history. Look out for a Club spotlight in a future issue.

No change in Scotland

DESPITE all the rumour and talk of a change in the Scottish League set-up for next season, the three Divisions are to remain the same with a ten-club Premier Division and 14 clubs in each of the First and Second Divisions.

WHEN Preston boss Nobby Stiles paid out £95,000 for unknown striker Steve Elliott he created quite a stir in the game.

But young Elliott, who progressed under the Brian Clough banner at Nottingham Forest, only left the City Ground when Forest got the fee they thought this exciting youngster was worth.

Elliott has certainly shown his potential at Deepdale already as Preston have pulled well clear of the bottom rungs of the Second Division and appear to have emerged as a possible promotion outfit next term.

A WELSH scrum-half, who considered taking up golf as a career, has been helping Crystal Palace's push for promotion from the Second Division this season.

Ian Walsh played a major part in Palace's success this season and is on the threshold of winning his first full cap for Wales.

"Welsh manager Mike Smith has already hinted at the possibility," reveals Walsh, aged 20, who has played for Wales Under-21's.

Walsh believes his experience on the rugby field has enhanced his progress in soccer.

"Being a scrum-half taught me to take a knock or two," he says.

Cosmopolitan Gunners

ARSENAL have had a more cosmopolitan element than most clubs down the years. Before the War they had Egyptian-born Sadek Fahmy, Indian goalkeeper Charlie Preedy, Colombo native Jack Butler, and Dutchman Peter Keiser. In season 1946-47 they had Icelandic inside-forward Albert Gudmundsson, and Australian-born John Kosmina, son of a Polish immigrant, who recently returned Down Under.

WEST HAM United Supporters Club are holding their third annual Programme Fair next Monday (May 7th) in their club H.Q. which is situated next to the ground in Green Street, Upton Park, London E.13. The Fair is from 10.30a.m.-3.00p.m. admission 20p.

JOB FOR MADDREN



FORMER Middlesbrough and England Under-23 international defender Willie Maddren has joined Whitby Town (Northern League) as assistant-coach. Maddren was forced to end his playing career on the advice of a specialist this season.

Maddren has ambitions to get back into the Football League as a coach.

Plan to hit Hooligans

BRADFORD City are putting on the style to counter hooliganism. They have picked up a few ideas from America which could cost them £10,000 for every home game!

Go-ahead chairman Bob Martin, who recently returned from the States, where he carried out a fact-finding mission, announced a scheme designed to make the Valley Parade ground safer for spectators.

Youngsters will be invited to become members of a club which will issue identity cards. Each card will contain a lucky number and draws will be made at home matches for 20 prizes, such as a trip in the team coach to away games and dinner with a favourite player.

Ten numbers will also be drawn for a penalty shot contest in which any young fan who can hit the ball through a hole in a board in front of goal will win £1,000.

Cards will be taken away from those youngsters who misbehave. Mr. Martin comments: "We want to make our ground safer. We are not wealthy but we are progressive and want to get closer to the youngsters."

UP AND DOWN IN ULSTER?

A PROMOTION and relegation system should be introduced in Northern Ireland.

So say officials of Linfield, Ulster's most successful club, who reckon that the "up and down" system would revitalise the domestic scene. "The adoption of promotion and relegation in a two-Division format would give our game an interesting, exciting and much needed new dimension," said a Windsor Park spokesman.

And, with the likes of Derry City, Newry Town, Carrick Rangers, Omagh Town and perhaps even once-illustrious but long-defunct Belfast Celtic all aiming for senior soccer, a larger, more competitive Irish League set-up could be on the cards before very long.

AUSTRALIAN club South Melbourne have a number of former British stars in their side, among them Frank Munro (ex-Wolves); Alun Evans (ex Wolves, Liverpool and Aston Villa); Bertie Luton (ex-Wolves, Brighton and West Ham) and George Campbell (ex-Aberdeen).

IT'S ALL Greek to 19-year-old Chelsea centre-half John Sitton — cooking that is.

Hackney-born Sitton has a Greek fiancée and she is always cooking for him. "I really love Greek dishes," says John, who joined Chelsea when he was only 13½ — and he had spent a year at Arsenal before that!

Bolton's Polish Star

THE failure of fellow countryman Kazimierz Deyna to gain a regular place with Manchester City did not stop Polish star Tadeusz Nowak from signing for Bolton Wanderers.

Nowak may not be well-known, but he has been unfortunate to play in the shadow of Grzegorz Lato. He has four full caps and 23 Under-23 caps, starting his career with Zagłębie Wałbrzych before joining Legia Warsaw in 1970.

Now 30, Nowak is very fast, having clocked 11.1 seconds for 100 metres. Nowak and Deyna are good friends, having played together for Legia for eight years.

He says: "I don't know the situation regarding Kazimierz, but I spent three weeks with Bolton earlier this year and received a warm reception. This is why I was happy to sign when I was given permission."

"This is a marvellous opportunity for me to extend my soccer education. I'm a third-year student of physical education and I shall be studying here."

Nowak, who signed a three-year contract with Bolton, has no doubt been asking his pal Kazimierz about all aspects of the English game... and hoping for better luck.

LEICESTER City boss Jock Wallace, who has often declared his intention of signing Scottish players to add strength and experience to his young side, may be interested in Hearts' midfielder John Craig.

Wallace tried to buy the unsettled Craig earlier this season — but his six-figure bid for both John and his Partick Thistle team-mate Ian Gibson was turned down by Jags' manager Bertie Auld.

Soon after Craig joined Hearts in a swap-deal for Donald Park, but the little red-head has never found his form in a relegation-haunted side.

Now, Craig's transfer request could spark new interest from Filbert Street.

FACTastic

THE Rowley brothers set up a remarkable record that may never again be achieved. It happened on October 22nd, 1956. Arthur Rowley, playing for Leicester City against his former club Fulham, hit the 200th League goal of his career. A few minutes later brother John, playing for Plymouth Argyle at Barnsley, also reached his "200" milestone. Arthur went on to complete the mammoth all-time record of 434 League goals before he retired in 1965.



WATCHING GARNER

STRIKER Simon Garner (above) has only been a professional for just over a year with Blackburn, but already some of the big clubs are casting envious eyes his way.

The Boston-born 19-year-old first caused a stir by scoring both goals in the shock 2-1 win at Fulham earlier this season. He has also scored decisive goals against Stoke and Leicester.

Brady for England

IN A recent interview, Mrs. Eileen Brady revealed that her son Liam (dark shirt) could have played for England.

Chippy's grandmother was from St. Helen's, Lancashire and Mrs. Brady joked:

"I bet Ron Greenwood would be interested to know that."

Unfortunately that piece of news has come a few years too late.



SHREWSBURY Town have taken over from Leeds United as the club which have gone longest without having a Football League hat-trick scored against them.

It last happened on September 12th, 1970, when Bobby Gough scored all Port Vale's goals in a 7-3 defeat at Shrewsbury.

Leeds lost that distinction when Manchester United's Andy Ritchie did the hat-trick in a 4-1 win at Old Trafford.

Ritchie's was the first three-goal performance at the expense of Leeds since Peter Dobing (Stoke City) achieved the feat in April, 1968.

It was also the first hat-trick since they were promoted to the First Division in 1964.

A NORTH Wales Branch of the West Bromwich Albion Supporters Club has recently been formed. Any readers in the area interested in joining should contact the Secretary W. E. Howell, 4 Tower Gardens, Rhyl, Clwyd, North Wales.

NORWICH CITY'S 2-2 result v. Manchester United on Saturday, April 7th was their 20th League draw of the season — a First Division record.

FIT GOODYEAR

CLIVE Goodyear, an 18-year-old Luton centre-half, should be pretty good at plugging holes in defence. He spent one year as an apprentice plumber.

Lincoln-born Clive had a spell with his local City team as a schoolboy and enjoyed the coaching there as much as he does now at Luton, where he is highly regarded.

One thing, Clive shouldn't be found wanting on the fitness stakes. He won cross-country and athletics honours for Lincolnshire.

MARTIN Shaw, an 18-year-old midfielder with Bristol Rovers, was so keen to make the professional grade he left home.

"It was when I was 15 to try to make apprentice," he says. "My dad's a warrant officer in the R.A.F. and he was posted to Germany, but I opted to stay and try to make it in football."

Sheedy on his way back

Kevin Sheedy, Liverpool's talented midfielder, has eased himself back into action after a mysterious injury had four specialists baffled.

Kevin, an £80,000 signing from Hereford last June, told me: "I pulled up in training with a nagging back injury. I kept returning too early and it wouldn't heal up. I had heat treatment and traction but couldn't clear it."

"I saw the specialists who diagnosed various problems from a pulled muscle, strained back, disc trouble to a torn ligament."

For Kevin who had started so well at Anfield scoring eight goals for the reserves it's been frustrating missing many months.

"Not much excitement really, just signing for Liverpool is still my greatest thrill," he said.

WHICH was soccer's richest vintage post-War year in the matter of producing future stars? How about 1960? In that year all these were launched into League life: Ian Callaghan (Swansea City and late Liverpool), Peter Bonetti (Chelsea), Billy Bremner (Leeds United), Tony Dunne and Peter Thompson (Bolton Wanderers), Kevin Keelan (Norwich City), and David Wagstaffe (Blackpool).

DAGENHAM — among the most progressive non-League clubs in the country — have shown they intend to keep flourishing by appointing a full-time Commercial Manager.

Reg Davis is the man with the responsibility of raising money for the Isthmian League club — whose set-up — and profit margin — is the envy of many Football League outfits.

Why Arsenal's Pat Rice preferred to meet Liverpool at Wembley



Pat (left) and George Armstrong (centre) close in on Liverpool's Steve Heighway in the 1971 F.A. Cup Final.

MANCHESTER United could feel the backlash of Arsenal's shock 1-0 defeat by Ipswich in last season's F.A. Cup Final when they clash in this season's Final at Wembley on Saturday, May 12.

Rarely has a team been more determined to erase memories of a nightmare performance at Wembley's showpiece finale to the season than Arsenal.

The misery that his team displayed in private after that defeat haunts Arsenal's captain and Northern Ireland full-back Pat Rice.

There was hardly a dry eye in the dressing-room at the end of the tunnel as Malcolm Macdonald, Frank Stapleton, Liam Brady, Sammy Nelson and the rest held an impromptu inquest on what had gone wrong.

That defeat hurt, but a revitalised Arsenal, better for the experience, have fought their way back to Wembley for a second crack at winning one of the most prized trophies in the soccer calendar.

'Utmost'

"I am making no snap predictions," says Rice. "But you can guarantee we will do our utmost not to allow history to repeat itself."

"I am making no excuses, but two or three of our side were not fully fit last year, notably Liam Brady and me. We should not have played."

"Graham Rix, certainly, should have played instead of Brady. We learned a lesson. Liam took no chances in the Semi-Final against Wolves this season when he dropped out with injury."

Rice believes Arsenal have a better balanced side this year. Malcolm Macdonald has missed most of the season with injury and Alan Hudson has left the club. Brian Talbot, recruited from Ipswich, has settled in well and Graham Rix has improved immeasurably.

"Of course we miss Macdonald

and Hudson, but we've managed to overcome their departures quite effectively. Macdonald, a 26-goal a season man, would be a loss to any side, but sad as his departure has been, we've got two of the best strikers in the country in Frank Stapleton and Alan Sunderland.

"We miss Hudson's ability to knit things together in midfield. He and 'Chippy' Brady had a perfect understanding. But Rix, his replacement, scores goals and can change the course of a game with a long pass."

Rice pulls no punches in revealing that Arsenal would have preferred to play Liverpool in the Final. Liverpool seem destined to win the League Championship and if they had completed the League and Cup "double", Arsenal would have qualified for the European Cup-Winners' Cup. Defeat by Manchester United could cost them a place in Europe if they fail to qualify for the U.E.F.A. Cup.

Arsenal are wary that they will be playing a United side blossoming into one of the best teams in the country.

"They took a lot of stick earlier in the season and they didn't like it," explains Rice.

The side Arsenal field against United in the Final is more attack minded than The Gunners side that clinched the League and Cup "double" in 1970-71, claims Rice.

The side that launched Arsenal into the Seventies in champagne style had a formidable striking partnership in John Radford and Ray Kennedy, supported by the explosive unpredictability of the North Bank's hero Charlie George. Supporting that trio was a defence containing Frank McLintock, Pat Rice himself, Bob McNab, Peter Simpson and Peter Storey.

Rice is the only player of that "double" side still with the club, although Sammy Nelson was beginning to make his mark at

Highbury.

"Terry Neill and Don Howe have placed more emphasis on going forward than that side. The old side had such a marvellous defence, that we pinched many results 1-0. Today we can pop in four — and concede three. There is nothing negative about us. It is better to watch."

"David O'Leary, our central defender, does not have the same influence on the side that Frank McLintock did. He does not possess the experience to spot danger as early as Frank, but he has other qualities that Frank didn't possess. And O'Leary's getting better every month. He's 20, he'll have reached the peak of his powers at 26."

'More consistent'

"No one in the League can outpace David, and that includes Tony Woodcock, of Forest, and Phil Boyer, of Southampton."

"I've been fortunate to play with two outstanding goalkeepers in Bob Wilson and Pat Jennings. Wilson was a better goalkeeper at club level than the great Gordon Banks. More consistent, tremendous at coming off his line to dive at forwards' feet."

"Pat is brilliant. He makes saves that are breathtaking."

No wonder Arsenal players can't wait to wipe-out memories of last season's defeat.

Pat is already taking a course of Pollitab, a special energy inducing tablet to ensure he's at the height of fitness for the Final.

"Don't worry, it's not a drug," says Pat.

Pollitab definitely gives you extra energy."

His lovely wife, Elizabeth, has also caught the Cup atmosphere. She is busy making costumes in red and white material for their two children, Stephen, two, and Kelly, who celebrated her first birthday on April 29.

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Capture the atmosphere of the two Finals — Man. United v. Arsenal at Wembley and Rangers v. Hibs at Hampden . . .



Don't miss — Managers' views from Dave Sexton (United) and Terry Neill (Arsenal) + Interviews with the two Scottish captains + How the clubs reached the Finals + Players from other clubs pick their winners + Scottish managers predict the outcome at Hampden + Assessments of Man. United and Arsenal + Facts and figures.

Also: Leeds stars Trevor Cherry and Carl Harris + Vic Davidson (Celtic) + four 'keepers on their experiences this season.

In colour: Action from all the Semi-Finals + Focus on Larry Lloyd (Nottingham Forest) + the Cup Final skippers.

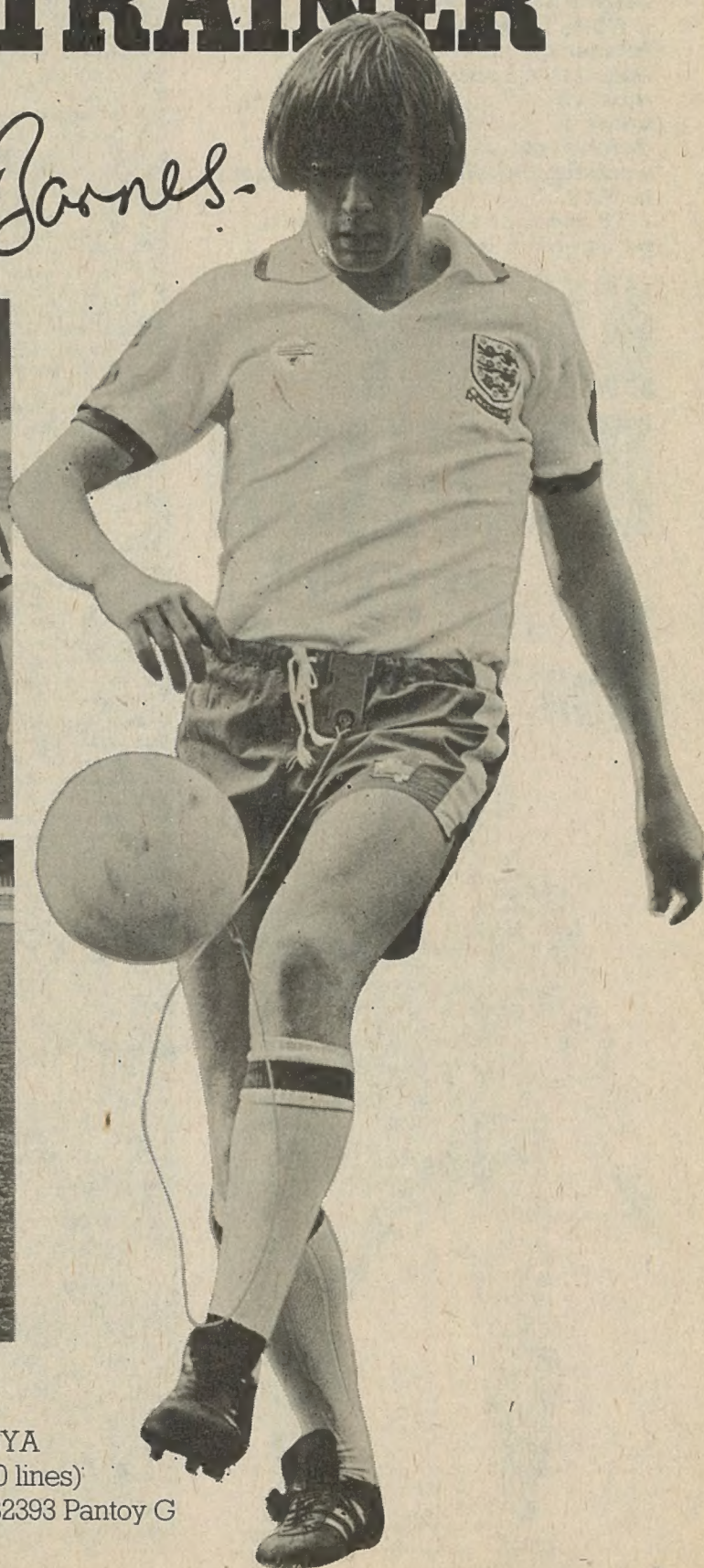
And, of course, all your usual favourites such as News Desk, World Wide, Ask The Expert, You Are The Ref, Goal-lines, and star-writers Ray Clemence, Gordon McQueen and Andy Gray.

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KENNY Dalglish is the most dangerous striker in Britain — and that's official!

First Division managers have shouted the Scottish international star's praises for years.

The Press acclaim him as a world-class goalscorer, capable of destroying any defence at club or international level.

The fans acknowledge him as one of the greatest centre-forwards of all-time.

Now, Liverpool's dynamic forward, who strikes with the speed of a cobra, receives the most prized accolade of all from some of the First Division defenders he torments and punishes relentlessly from August to May.

They accord him the ultimate recognition by voting . . .

KENNY DALGLISH

THE MOST FEARED STRIKER IN BRITAIN



Brendon Batson

(W.B.A.)

I CALL Kenny Dalglish a "spaceman". He's the best striker in the country — and no player is more aware of space around him in a crowded penalty-area than the Liverpool striker.

He seems to have eyes in the front, sides and back of his head and an incredible ability to make up his mind what he is going to do whilst all around him are rushing about.

I've spent hours trying to think of ways to stop his menace. At last I've discovered the perfect solution.

If you mark him tight he will turn you and go round you for goal.

If you give him too much space he will crucify you for your poor defence.

So the answer is simple — prevent the great Kenny from getting the ball. Achieving that objective is another matter.

My second choice is Nottingham Forest's exciting striker Tony Woodcock. He is very difficult to mark because he is so fast. He, too, is always looking to turn defenders.

He can destroy you over a few yards with his tremendous acceleration. I believe the best of Woodcock is still to come for the delight of the Forest fans — and England's as well.

His only weakness is that he is not a consistent goalscorer in the Dalglish class. He was right off form at club level for Forest in mid-season but fortunately for Brian Clough he returned to his best when the European Cup reached its crucial stages.

I've felt very sorry for him at times this season. Some of his shots would skid just outside the post, or just over the bar, with goalkeepers beaten and expecting to concede a goal.

I'm awarding the third prize jointly to Arsenal's twin strikers Frank Stapleton and Alan Sunderland. They're terribly difficult to mark. Both can go down the centre or come in at you from wide on the flanks during Arsenal's attacks.

England's striker Bob Latchford does not get my vote because of his reliance on support. If you cut off Bob's supply he loses his menace. He will rarely go looking for the ball away from the middle if his supply line is cut.

You can't say that of Dalglish.

'Difficult to mark because he's so fast' says Brendon Batson



Nottn Forest's Tony Woodcock —

Alan Hansen

(LIVERPOOL)

I MAKE no apologies for naming Kenny Dalglish, my team-mate at Liverpool, as the best striker in Britain at the moment.

Kenny scores unbelievable goals for us. He does the same in training and is just as dedicated when it comes to a five-a-side with no fans watching as he is when Anfield is packed on a Saturday afternoon in the winter.

He is magic in the penalty-area. He can hold the ball despite the strongest challenges from defenders twice his size; he can lay it off to team-mates running through for a shot at goal; or he can have a go himself.

A lot has been said this season about the danger he poses when he has his back to goal. Wise words. No forward in Britain can turn and shoot quite like Kenny.

My vote for the second best striker in the First Division might surprise a few people. I go wholeheartedly for Charlie George, the former Arsenal and Derby County favourite, who is now wearing Southampton's colours.

Poor Charlie has had a tough time with injury since transferring to The Dell, but once he recovers the South coast club's fans will see just how brilliant he is up-front.

Charlie has got everything. Good in the air, quick, plenty of vision with those long raking passes, and a goal-sense that can threaten the best defences.

I love the way he lays the ball off after it is played quickly to his feet. It amazes me that he has not won more than one England cap.

He was sometimes a one-man show in that Derby team whenever Liverpool played them.

Third choice is Andy Gray, Aston Villa's Scottish international striker. Andy never gives you a second to breathe when he is playing against Liverpool.

He's brilliant in the air — and can score from anywhere.

Trevor Francis? I've only played against him once. He had a brilliant game in Birmingham's 3-2 victory at Anfield, but I'll reserve judgment on Trevor until he has had a few more games under his belt at Nottingham Forest.

His best could still be to come. At the moment, though, Dalglish is the king of them all.

Southampton's Charlie George —

'Sometimes a one-man show' says Alan Hansen



John Hollins

(Q.P.R.)

THE goal Kenny Dalglish scored for Liverpool in their 1-0 European Cup Final defeat of Bruges at Wembley in 1978 confirmed the belief I've held for many years that the Scottish international is a genius.

Graeme Souness made the opening, leaving Dalglish clear of the Bruges defence. Lesser strikers would have blasted the ball past the Bruges goalkeeper, and possibly wide.

Cool as you like, Dalglish chose to leave him helpless with a delicately placed shot that would not have been out of place on the approaches to the green at a golf club.

He has the devastating finishing power of a modern day Jimmy Greaves. He is intelligent and no striker is more aware of the situation going on around him than Dalglish.

One of the finest volleyers of a football I've seen was the former West Ham and England striker Johnny "Budgie" Byrne. Dalglish can match him for accuracy with these oh so difficult shots.

Give him too much room and the ball finishes in the net. Get too close and he's past you on the turn. He's murder.

Bolton's Frank Worthington gets my vote as runner-up to Kenny. The Bolton striker's skills are not always appreciated. He is good in the air and a great finisher on the ground.

He is left-footed, which makes him awkward.

Jimmy Greenhoff, of Manchester United, hasn't quite got the pace of Dalglish but is very much like him. He gets my third vote. He has great vision, a highly intelligent player. He can drift quietly into position rather than rush at 90mph and defences suffer for forgetting he's about.

The greatest striker I've ever played against? No doubt about that one — Pele. His electrifying bursts and power shooting for Santos against Chelsea in a game we played against the Brazilian club in Jamaica in the late Sixties has left an everlasting imprint on my mind.

Cruyff is good, Pele is better, but the best in Britain is clearly Kenny Dalglish.

Bolton's Frank Worthington —

'Left-footed, which makes him awkward to mark' says John Hollins



Malcolm Waldron

(SOUTHAMPTON)

IT'S Dalglish for me by a mile. I am still staggered by the Liverpool striker's sharpness and goalscoring whenever I play against him.

It is so difficult to mark him. At the risk of boring readers by making the same comments as the other defenders reported in this SHOOT feature, I must pay tribute to Kenny's ability to turn in the box whatever the strength and determination of the defence opposing him.

Not only does he manage to get in a shot in the tightest situation but he also places the ball so that a goalkeeper has to be at his most acrobatic to prevent him from scoring.

If Manchester United's Jimmy Greenhoff was a shade faster he would be in the Dalglish class. It's a tragedy he has never been selected to play for England. He has had a long career and seems to be playing better than ever.

He gets in behind defences, popping up where you least expect to find him. Strangely enough I would prefer to mark Jimmy, despite what I've said about his ability, than I would his striking colleague Joe Jordan. His bulldozing tactics can often upset my game.

The third best striker in the country is a player who hasn't appeared for England for several years — Frank Worthington.

The Bolton forward has that rare ability to be in the right place at the right time as defences who have played against Bolton this season will appreciate.

His understanding with Alan Gowling at Burnden Park makes them one of the best pairs of strikers in the country. Gowling scored twice against Southampton at Bolton this season and Worthington grabbed both goals in a 2-2 draw at The Dell.

Trevor Francis is not in Dalglish's class. I believe he can be marked out of a game. When Southampton beat Birmingham 5-2 in the League Cup this season we did a man for man marking job on Trevor and he didn't get much of a look in.

I still retain a healthy respect for a player who retired several seasons ago. I'm referring to Tottenham's former Scottish international striker Alan Gilzean.

I marked Alan in one of my early games for Southampton's reserves as a 17-year-old. He gave me one of the worst run-arounds I've ever had. I won't forget the experience in a hurry.



Man. United's Jimmy Greenhoff —

'Playing better than ever' says Malcolm Waldron

Kenny Burns

(NOTTINGHAM FOREST)

IF Scotland gave Kenny Dalglish the service he receives from his Liverpool colleagues he would be the world's best striker.

His international career has never been as brilliant as his League career. Give Kenny the ball properly and leave the rest to him.

He is by far the most dangerous striker in the country. It's difficult as a defender to know how to play him. Go too tight on him and he's away from you in a flash.

Liverpool play to his strengths. They fire the ball to him from any distance, using him as a target man. Once in possession he can hold the ball against the biggest defenders.

There is only one way to counteract Dalglish and that is to prevent the ball from getting to him in the first place.

Stop the crosses, cut out the ball played to him, that's the only way.

My second choice is another Scot, Andy Gray. He will fight all day for you. His side can be 2-0 down with five minutes to go and Andy will still be battling away. What is so important is that his persistence often pays dividends.

I prefer to mark Andy than Kenny but neither player gives you much chance if they are given room. Andy is good in the air and on the ground.

The best of Trevor Francis is still to come. He is still learning the trade, like most of us. Brian Clough and Peter Taylor are working to make him consistent. To make him do the right things on the ball and off it.

They are teaching him what to do and when to do it.

Even Peter Shilton is still learning. It's that sort of club at Forest. No one is perfect.

But the best of them all is very definitely Kenny Dalglish.

He is already Scotland's most capped player and could well become the first star from North of the border to win a century of caps in the famous blue jersey.

Aston Villa's Andy Gray —

'His persistence often pays dividends' says Kenny Burns



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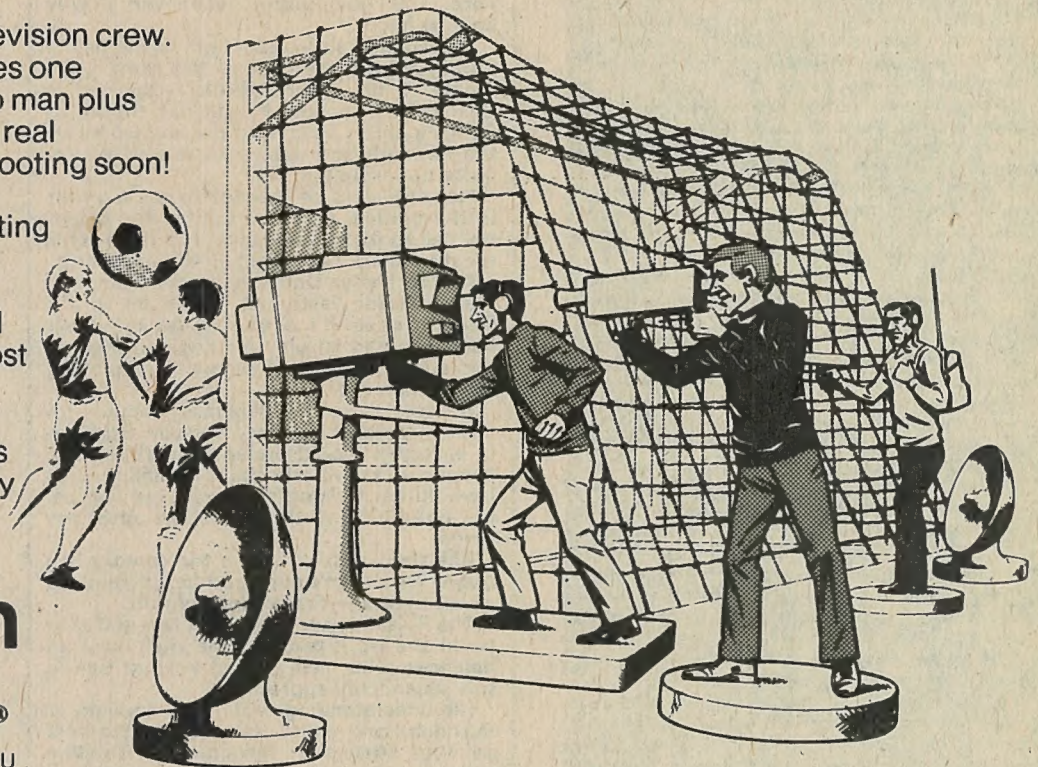
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TWENTY million pounds changed hands for the transfer of players during the 12 months between the deadline of 1978 and March 29th this year. An all-time record, completely shattering the totals for previous seasons — around £8½ million in 1976-77 and £12 million in 1977-78.

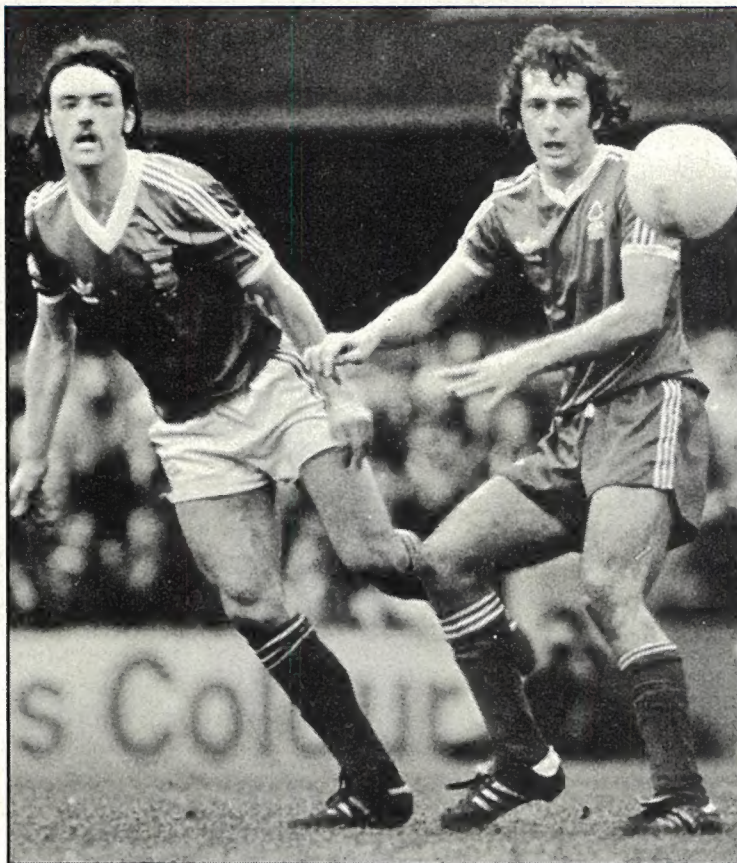
Even those figures were regarded at the time as astronomic but the value of wanted players by desperate clubs has now reached shattering heights. How much higher will transfer deals go? Who knows?

If we take a break-down of the 1978-79 moves we find these figures: 40 deals of £100,000 and over; 15 of £200,000 and over; ten of £300,000 and over; three at £400,000 and over; two over £500,000 and, of course, the £1 million Trevor Francis deal.

Another interesting record was the expenditure of more than one and a half million pounds during the final last few hectic days before the transfer deadline.

We thought it might be interesting to choose a complete eleven from among the top valued transfer moves of the 1978-79 season. Here is our choice . . . £5 million pounds worth of soccer talent!

In goal is the costliest 'keeper in the Football League, Phil Parkes, whose move from Queens Park



Todd); Talbot, Ardiles, Villa; Mills, George, Francis (sub Walsh).

Another interesting fact from the past transfer season concerns Duncan McKenzie, that ace ball-player whose artistry has never quite made the impact it deserved. His combined transfer fees have now passed the £900,000 mark.

In August, 1974, he moved from his first club Nottingham Forest to Leeds United for £240,000 (big money in those days).

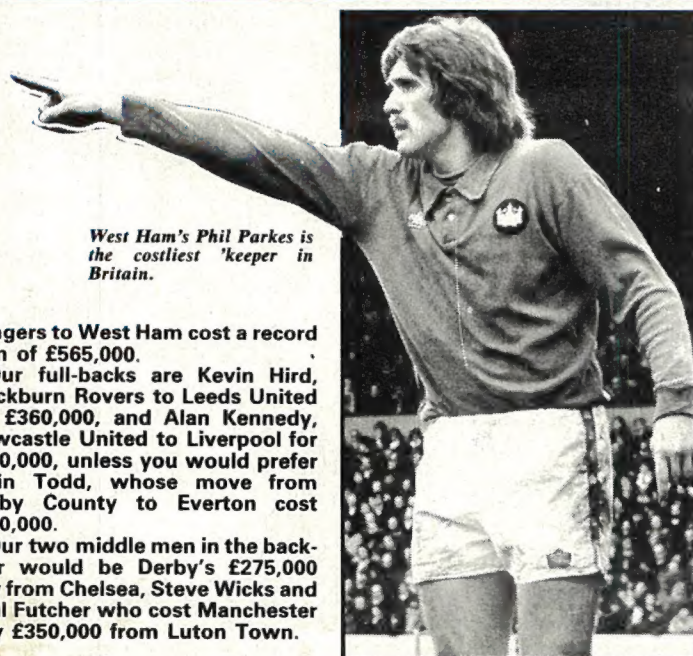
In July, 1976, he moved from Leeds to Anderlecht for £200,000, but remained in Belgium for only five months before returning to England to join Everton for another £200,000.

Just before the start of the past season he moved once more, this time to Chelsea for £175,000 and then in March this year left Stamford Bridge for Blackburn Rovers and a fee of £120,000. Which means his various moves have totalled £935,000 — not far short of the one million pounds it cost Forest to secure the services of another ball-wizard, Trevor Francis.

Forest's £1 million man, Trevor Francis (above, right). David Mills (below) cost West Brom £516,000 from Middlesbrough.

THE £5 MILLION 'TEAM'

1978-9 A Record Transfer Season



West Ham's Phil Parkes is the costliest 'keeper in Britain.

Rangers to West Ham cost a record sum of £565,000.

Our full-backs are Kevin Hird, Blackburn Rovers to Leeds United for £360,000, and Alan Kennedy, Newcastle United to Liverpool for £300,000, unless you would prefer Colin Todd, whose move from Derby County to Everton cost £330,000.

Our two middle men in the back-four would be Derby's £275,000 buy from Chelsea, Steve Wicks and Paul Futcher who cost Manchester City £350,000 from Luton Town.

In midfield we go for Brian Talbot, Arsenal's £450,000 signing from Ipswich Town and Spurs' two Argentinian World Cup star captures at around £750,000, Ricardo Villa and Osvaldo Ardiles.

Now we come to the front-line worth nearly two million pounds! Here they are: David Mills, signed by West Bromwich Albion from Middlesbrough for £516,000, Charlie George, £400,000 capture by Southampton from Derby County and Trevor Francis, Birmingham to Nottingham Forest — the first ever one million pounds transfer.

One other name might be added as substitute to that list, that of Mick Walsh.

The Republic of Ireland goalgetter moved from Blackpool to Everton in July for £325,000 but failed to settle down at Goodison, hence his second move of the season, from Everton to Queens Park Rangers in March for £280,000.

So here again is our 1978-79 £5 million line-up: Parkes; Hird, Wicks, Futcher, Kennedy (or



ANDY MEETS HIS MATCH



IT'S champagne time for Aston Villa and Scotland striker Andy Gray — and why not? Our columnist has just got engaged to Sara Matthews, although Andy says they probably won't be married until next year. The happy couple celebrated their engagement in Andy's new club, the Holy City Zoo. Andy has said in the past that the chances are he wouldn't marry until he was 30 — "My brothers were all late getting married and I expect I shall be, too." Well, Andy is 23, so it looks as if his prediction will be wrong! Best of luck for the future, Andy and Sara.



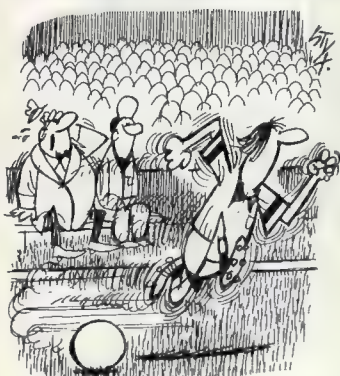
SHOOT!

DON GIVENS
Birmingham City



SHOOT!

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Cor! Thick as mud, just because I shouted 'pass it' "



"The boss just paid me a fantastic compliment. He put his hands on my shoulders like this, looked me straight in the eye, and said, 'son, the only difference between you and Trevor Francis is one million pounds.'"

"Magic — absolute magic — the way you two wizards made yourselves disappear when the pressure was on"



This week Wrexham striker DIXIE McNEIL selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"And one last thing — I'd like you to scotch these rumours that I'm getting big headed. Now you may ask me for my autograph"



"I still say their goalkeeper was offside when he scored"

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It took Allan Clarke less than five minutes to decide Scotsman Tommy Graham was the man who wanted to share the goal burden with him in Barnsley's drive for promotion to the Third Division.

And no one is better qualified to judge a striker than the Oakwell player-manager. Over 200 League goals, including 110 for Leeds United during his distinguished career with them, proved he is one of the most deadly "poachers" of his era.

His verdict on Graham, brother of the Leeds and Scotland winger, Arthur, is straight to the point. "He's a natural," says the ex-England star.

"He's not particularly tall for a striker — about 5ft 10in — but he's good in the air, has excellent control and a driving hunger for goals.

"He has an instinctive desire to get into the penalty-area — to dash for the far post as soon as he's played the ball out to the wing.

"It's brought him a lot of goals — 11 in his first dozen games for us — and I'll be delighted if he heads me in the scoring list before the season's over! It's amazing to think he is so inexperienced.

"I find it difficult to believe Tommy had never played League football anywhere until he joined us in December. He's taken to it like a duck to water."

Tommy Graham's rise to Fourth Division fame has been like a fairytale. Last Easter he was happy to work as a timber-checker at a sawmill in his native Glasgow, playing for the local amateur team

THE LOST YEARS OF BARNSLEY'S TOMMY GRAHAM



at the weekends.

He explains: "I'd reached the age of 23 without any Scottish club showing much interest in me when an Aston villa scout spotted me

"I was so self-conscious about my age — after all most professionals join League clubs while in their teens — that I pretended I was only 19.

"I didn't want to miss the chance

of missing a trial because they might have thought I was too old. I didn't admit my real age until Ron Saunders (Villa's manager) had offered me the job.

"Now I know it's ability that counts."

Unhappily — at least that's what he thought before Barnsley paid £25,000 for him — Tommy didn't make much headway at Villa Park. "I felt I wasn't getting anywhere, even allowing for the fact it was my first full season as a professional," he says.

Fortunately for him Allan Clarke was combing the Central League circuit for talent. "Because of my playing commitments I can't do much scouting so I rely a lot on Martin Wilkinson, one of my assistants," Clarke told SHOOT.

"He recommended Tommy and Ron Saunders made things easy for me by allowing his player to come to Oakwell to take part in a practice match.

"I was delighted with what I saw — as I say it took only a few minutes to decide he would give the attack extra punch — and I wasted no time in signing a £25,000 cheque."

Tommy's quick thinking and accurate finishing mark him as a man to watch. "When he's had another season, probably with Barnsley in the Third Division, he'll be really good," says brother Arthur.

Tommy's who has five other brothers and three sisters, says that playing alongside Clarke has speeded up his soccer education.

PROFESSIONAL pride is an expression often misused, frequently abused and occasionally misconstrued. It is, however, a phrase that is deservedly applied to the attitude of certain players.

In these days of commercialisation it is indeed pleasurable to see a seasoned professional who has seen both success and disappointment yet still has genuine enthusiasm for the game.

As Brighton push ahead towards the First Division, experienced defender, Chris Cattlin plays with as much, if not more, enthusiasm than many of his much younger colleagues.

For Chris it's very much a case of... 'I've seen it all before'. Three caps for England at Under-23 level, chosen for the Football League against the Scottish League, transferred from Huddersfield to Coventry nearly 13 years ago for £70,000 and over 250 appearances in the First Division.



Twelve months after his arrival Brighton were in Division Two and a year later they missed promotion to the First by goal difference.

Last August it seemed Brighton manager, Alan Mullery had written off the one time Burnley Youth player, Ken Tiler and Gary Williams had settled in as a full-back pairing.

By the end of November The Seagulls had dropped to the bottom half of the table and Mullery seemed to be facing problems. Chris Cattlin was recalled and immediately fortunes changed.

A League Cup defeat at Nottingham Forest was hardly a disgrace and nor was a one-nil reverse on the ice-bound pitch at Preston in February. Apart from those two defeats the presence of "Cat", as he's known to his colleagues, has been more than just as a lucky mascot.

And now he could be right. The heroics of Eric Steele, the foot perfect precision of Mark Lawrenson and the pulsating talent of Peter Ward may well grab the headlines but always there, in the number two shirt is the dependable true professional, Chris Cattlin — and when skipper Brian Horton was suspended he was made team captain.

For some footballers, careers are short but Chris has no thoughts of retirement. To play regularly again in the best League in the world — Division One — is his singular aim.

Alan Mullery is unstinting in his praise for the man who, as a teenager, was prevented by his parents from starting a professional career.

"Defeat never enters his head," says the Brighton manager. "Cat sets a fine example to my young players."

'Cat' made

When he moved to Brighton in May, 1976, many thought the cheerful Lancastrian had come to the end of the road. The thought of a stay for a few years by the sea in the Third Division could be the ideal prelude to retirement.

But, for the big and enthusiastic son of a Rugby League international, that was not the aim.

The Seagulls soar

His skill, enthusiasm, experience and quite obvious enjoyment is infectious.

Looking back to his time at Coventry, Chris recalls nine years of fun and dozens of games that literally stirred the blood. When he left Highfield Road, The Sky Blues' supporters protested and signed petitions to retain their favourite.

The move to Brighton, however, was finalised but Cattlin vowed his First Division days were far from finished.

Chris is already a successful businessman but football will always be part of his life. The First Division is his immediate target but even that, one imagines, won't completely satisfy him. Maybe to play in Europe would.

To talk the game with this now "naturalised" Brightonian is a pleasure and he gives the impression he'd be happy playing until he's 50...

Yes, the man has "Professional Pride" with a capital "P" in the best and most genuine sense.

ONE reason I enjoy being a SHOOT columnist is that by answering readers' letters I often get the chance to air my views on a wide variety of subjects.

As I write, people inside and outside the game are eagerly awaiting the result of the football writers' poll to decide their "Player of the Year". And beside me is a letter from John Benton of Croydon, near London, who asks me whether I rate the football writers' trophy above the players' one, and who I expect to win it this year.

It's a great honour to win either of them, John, and the roll of honour of the writers' trophy contains many legendary figures, such as Sir Stanley Matthews, Joe Mercer, Nat Lofthouse, Don Revie and Danny Blanchflower. But although the players' award was only introduced in 1974, compared to the other, first presented in 1948, it does have the edge with me simply because the winner is chosen by his peers, the men he plays against, whom I regard the best judges of his ability.

Brilliant import

As for who I think are in the running for the writers' statuette this year, it's between Spurs' Osvaldo Ardiles, the Argentine World Cup star, Liam Brady of Arsenal and our Kenny Dalglish at Liverpool.

From those I'd eliminate Ardiles, simply because the winner is invariably a player who has helped his club win at least one honour, or is likely to, and the brilliant import has shone in a side that hasn't even finished high enough to earn a place in the U.E.F.A. Cup next season.

Arsenal's Liam Brady has suffered periods when he has not played up to his best form, and was missing through injury at a vital time in his club's path to Wembley.

He has already been crowned "Players' Player of the Year", but as I pointed out in a previous column because the votes were polled in January he was being judged over the second half of last season and the first half of this. A much fairer system would be to hold the poll at the end of the season.

And that's why I'm hoping my team-mate Kenny, who strangely finished out of the top six in the

RAY CLEMENCE

talking soccer

P.F.A. awards, is rewarded for his efforts over the season by being named the football writers' choice.

He merits it for consistent brilliance in the most difficult role on the field: up-front, mainly with his back to the goal, and defenders trying to kick lumps out of him. Admittedly, he found goals hard to come by for a while after Christmas, but resumed scoring them with the same frequency.

Another thing in his favour is he's been an ever-present in Liverpool's team, and played a big part in our bid for the Championship.

Now for news of an award to yours truly, requested by Jane McKipley of Chester. "I heard you won some sort of honour in Liverpool in March, Ray. Can you tell me what it was?"

Merseyside Sports Personality for 1978-79, Jane, and it's the first major award that has so far come my way.

I topped a poll organised by the local paper, the Echo, in conjunction with the Variety Club of Great Britain.

It was a tremendous honour topping a poll of sports personalities in an area renowned for its interest in a variety of sports. I "competed" against a swimmer, two athletes, a boxer — John Conteh, the light-heavyweight who is a former winner of the award — and stars from Rugby League and international judo.

The first four placings were: myself, swimmer Margaret Kelly, Everton's Andy King, and Kenny Dalglish.

The presentation was held at a dinner for over 300 people at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, and for me it was a real night to remember.

As you can see from the photo, the trophy is a handsome one: a large silver ball surmounted by a miniature Liver bird, the city's symbol.

Liverpool fans are fascinated by the club, and are continually asking me for information about the scene

'MERSEYSIDE PERSONALITY 1978 that's

"backstage" and the personalities.

"We all know about Bob Paisley, the manager," writes Dick Millington from Walsall, "but can you tell me something about the men who work with him — the backroom boys."

Delighted, Dick. I'm always only too pleased to turn the spotlight on the "team" behind the team, without whom the club would not have achieved so much success over the years.

First there's Joe Fagan, the chief coach, a man whose heart is in the club. Joe isn't the sort who angles for publicity, appears on TV pontificating about how the game should be played and criticising everyone in sight.

What Joe doesn't know about players and playing isn't worth knowing. He can analyse one of our games, spot where we went wrong and with a few quiet words in certain ears ensure it doesn't happen again.

He's assisted by Ronnie Moran, the first team trainer who, like Bob Paisley, is a former player with the club. Ronnie supervises all the training and really drives us hard.

Next in line of command is Roy Evans, a great mate of mine whom I played alongside in the reserves in my early days at Anfield. Roy was a left-back, and unfortunately he lacked the pace for First Division football and was given the chance to take charge of the reserves. And what a grand job he's done with



From left to right (back row): Tom Saunders, Reuben Bennett, Joe Fagan, Geoff Twentyman, Ronnie Moran. (Front row): Roy Evans, John Bennisson.

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England/Eire

Please tell me the results of full internationals between England and Eire?

JOHN CALLEN,
EIRE

● They've met seven times, John — with three wins for England, one for Eire, and three draws.

First meeting was in Dublin, on 30th September, 1946, when England won 1-0 — followed by a 2-0 Eire win on Everton's ground on 21st September, 1949. England's first-ever home defeat by any nation outside the United Kingdom.

Remaining games ended in a 5-1 Wembley win for England (8th May, 1957), a 1-1 Dublin draw (19th May, 1957), a 3-1 England win in Dublin on 14th May, 1964 — and 1-1 draws at Wembley (8th September, 1976) and Dublin (25th October, 1978).

The next scheduled meeting is at Wembley on 6th February, 1980 — in the final match of Group One of the European Championship.

Stepney on target

I know Alex Stepney scored a couple of League goals for Manchester United — but can you tell me who against?

TIM WISCARSON,
HAYLING ISLAND

● They were both in the 1973-74 season, Tim — and, as you can guess, both penalties.

First was in the 1-2 home defeat by Leicester on 12th September; the other, the winner in the 1-0 home victory over Birmingham a few weeks later on 20th

October.

That was United's disastrous relegation season — and, when 'keeper Stepney scored his second, it made him the club's then joint-top-scorer!

Denis Compton

My Dad raves about Denis Compton! Can you tell me his record for Arsenal?

STEPHEN HAWKE,
AUSTRALIA

● Well, Stephen, Denis Compton was really better-known as a cricketer, playing in 78 Test Matches for England — eight before the War, and 70 after — including 28 against your country.

But for the War, when normal sport shut-down for six years, he would undoubtedly have joined that select,

SPORTS FOR -79 me'

them. They look certain to become Champions of the Central League.

I believe it'll be their tenth title win in 12 years.

Tom Saunders, a former headmaster, who once was in charge of the England Youth team now acts as our European spy, evaluating Continental opposition. He also ensures our apprentices learn another trade, so they have something to turn to should they not make the grade in the game.

John Bennison, who never reached a high level as a player himself, is entrusted with the job of coaching our youth side.

Rueben Bennett fills the same role as Tom, except he reports back on teams we're due to play in the Football League.

Geoff Twentyman, another ex-Liverpool player, acts as a scout, scouring the lower Leagues in the main, on the lookout for future Kevin Keegans and, dare I say it, Ray Clemences.

"What is your routine before a home match?" asks Dave Harcourt, a Liverpool fan who hails from Lyme Regis in Dorset and complains he can only ever watch his favourites on TV because of the distance problem.

After training on Friday, I always make a point of delivering match tickets in the same order. Then I go home to pack and, after a light tea of steak and toast, I report back to the club. There I board the coach that takes us for an overnight stay at a hotel outside Warrington.

I share a room with Phil Neal, our



right-back. After tea and toast, I slip into bed to watch TV until lights out at around eleven o'clock.

I'm woken at half-nine with breakfast in bed. After reading the morning papers, I have a shower, dress and report for lunch.

Afterwards we take the coach to the ground, sign autographs, ensure that our families and friends are comfortable in their seats, and drift down to the dressing-room.

There I always change at the same time, taking off my clothes and putting on my kit in the same order.

Out on the pitch I go through a regular routine, which I began with Kevin Keegan and continue with Kenny Dalglish.

Kenny warms me up with a series of different shots, always finishing when the ref whistles for us to take up our positions, by placing the ball into the back of the net. It's a superstition with him.

Now I have an apology to make — to Forest's Larry Lloyd. Reader Simeon Rayner, who like me lives in Formby, points out that in my column in the April 28th issue I wrongly stated that Peter Cormack was the only ex-Liverpool player currently playing in the First Division.

Sorry, Larry. I still can't understand how I came to forget you. The after-match drinks are on me next time!

Southampton come to Anfield for what was originally to be our last League game of the season.

I've a great admiration for the way manager Lawrie McMenemy has transformed Saints, blending youth with experience so effectively they reached the League Cup Final — only to lose to Nottingham Forest.

Saints give little away and will be difficult to beat, especially as they'll be inspired by Alan Ball.

Ballie always plays well at Anfield, which since his days with Everton he's always regarded as his favourite away ground.

When with Arsenal later he drove them to two successive wins at Anfield.

There'll be nothing end-of-season about this game, I guarantee.

Ray Clemence

tiny band of all-round sportsmen who've played for England in peacetime at both sports.

As it was, when Army duties permitted, he was a good enough left-winger to play 12 times for England — alongside the likes of Stan Matthews, Tommy Lawton & Co. — in Wartime internationals which, unfortunately for him, don't count in the official records.

The young Compton had only just broken into Arsenal's League side when War broke out in 1939 — and, when full peacetime sport returned in 1946, decided his main future then lay in cricket.

Even so, he gained a League Championship medal with The Gunners in 1947-48 — and was in the side which beat Liverpool 2-0 in the 1950 F.A. Cup Final.

Playing centre-half in that Arsenal Cup-winning side was elder brother Leslie Compton — who, unlike Denis, did earn two full peacetime soccer caps for England.

SHORT PASSES

● Bolton's Frank Worthington has played in eight full internationals for England, scoring two goals.
(TONY MANUELL, Bolton)

● Northampton's only season in the First Division was that of 1965-66.
(SEAN MCCOY, N. Ireland)

● Between 3rd February, 1957, and 7th March, 1965, Real Madrid were unbeaten at home in the Spanish League — winning 114 games, and drawing the remaining eight.
(SATNAM SINGH, Leeds)

● Tottenham's first-ever Football League game was a 3-0 home defeat of Wolves (Div Two) on 1st September, 1908.

(CHRISTOPHER JONES, Gwent)

● Leeds' highest League scorer in a single season is John Charles — 42 goals in 38 Second Division games in 1953-54.

(CIARAN COSGRAVE, Eire)

● Arsenal were in the successive League Cup Finals of 1968 and 1969 — first losing 0-1 to Leeds, and then 1-3 to Swindon.

(PAUL PROUD, Walsall)

● Norman Hunter played 543 League games for Leeds before joining Bristol City on 29th October, 1976.

(LAURIE RADFORD, Bristol)

● Everton first tried out a frost-beating electrified pitch at Goodison Park as far back as 1958.

(NEIL MORRISH, Wiltshire)

● Pat Jennings' first full international for Northern Ireland was in a 3-2 Cardiff win over Wales on 15th April, 1964. He was then still a Watford player.

(SEAN HOPKINS, Dover)

● Liverpool, with a record ten Football League Championship triumphs, have also been runners-up six times.

(LEE BRUCE, Lincoln)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

ST-ETIENNE kept the French League alive by beating runaway leaders Racing Strasbourg 2-0. Nearly 39,000 fans paid just over £150,000 at the turnstiles to see Larios and Elie sew up the game with first-half goals. Strasbourg's defeat narrowed their lead to two points, and pursuers Nantes and St-Etienne both have the edge over them on goal difference.

Meanwhile, last season's Champions, AS Monaco, virtually kissed goodbye to their title after going down 1-4 Bastia.

DYNAMO'S CHARGE

DYNAMO Berlin's 10-0 win over Sachsenring Zwickau is all the more remarkable because their goals were scored against East Germany's top goalkeeper Jürgen Croy. Wolf-Rüdiger Netz hit four to go top scorer with 14, and this gave Dynamo the best-ever start to a League campaign in the history of the DDR game: won 15, drawn 2, was their tally after the 10-0 win ... and no defeats.

● Average crowd in the West German Bundesliga so far is 25,907.

DUTCH star Johnny Metgod, who scored against Switzerland recently has a snooker table at his home to help his ... football. His club manager, George Kessler of AZ '67 reckons Johnny lacks concentration and hopes a few hours playing snooker regularly will help this.

WORLDWIDE

COMPILED BY CHRIS DAVIES

AS the North American Soccer League moves into its second month, the Cosmos — red hot favourites — are eager to strengthen their squad of internationals with even more top names. They already have players from Turkey, Iran, Brazil, Holland, West Germany, Yugoslavia, Italy, Argentina, Portugal, England and, of course, North America.

Yet South African coach Eddie Firmani says: "I would like to have two or three more players in my squad to cover for injuries."

In goal the Cosmos have either Erol Yashin or David Brlic, who played for Morton this winter. Right-back is the

The rise and fall of

A YEAR ago in Argentina, José Guimaraes Dirceu (right) was widely acclaimed as Brazil's best player, but since then little has gone right for the 26-year-old midfielder.

In the World Cup team, Dirceu was the surprise revelation in a side in which Zico and Rivelino were expected to catch the eye. Two goals against Peru and a finely-struck shot that beat Dino Zoff to give Brazil third place meant that Dirceu finished as the team's top scorer, level with striker Roberto.

"We were definitely short of real goalscorers," he says, "though I also think that the poor playing surface and lack of atmosphere in Mar del Plata had a lot to do with our disappointing form. Even so, I still think that we were better than Argentina and Holland — that's why the Brazilian Press 'murdered' us when we got home. Despite all our shortcomings, we should have won the World Cup ..."

Back in Brazil, Dirceu's thoughts, like those of a lot of other World Cup successes, turned to cashing-in on his new international reputation. He was suddenly near the top of the tree, and things seemed to be moving in the right direction when his club, Vasco da Gama, agreed to transfer him to Mexican club, América (after the deal with

Birmingham City fell through) for a fee stated by Dirceu himself to be £285,000, though some sources give the figure as £400,000.

The player admits to receiving £100,000 as his share of the deal, and he and his wife Vania headed confidently for a life of opulence in Mexico.

But things rapidly started to go wrong. América's backers, an international company named Televisa, were trying to build a Mexican super-team along the lines of the Cosmos, and Dirceu was to be the star attraction.

The fans flocked to see the expensive new arrival, but were bitterly disappointed with his performances, and rapidly decided that he wasn't worth the record fee.

Like many other World Cup stars, Dirceu had trouble maintaining peak form, and in Mexico there was an important difference. He had excelled in a Brazil team where the opposition's strategy was mainly to blot out Rivelino — now he was the star, and he was the object of the man-to-man marking.

"I just couldn't believe it. The tackling is brutal, and they come at you with the obvious intention of hurting you. The ball isn't important at all. What's more I think Mexico must be the only country



in the world where a player can be sent-off for some criminal fouls and then play in the next match as if nothing had happened!"

Dirceu's form declined even further, and matters came to a head when the América manager Raul Cardenas decided that the only solution was to drop him.

FANS of AC Milan are up in arms because huge numbers of big match tickets are finding their way on to the black market. For the recent game at home to Juventus the available 48,406 tickets were all sold in 24 hours, but few reached the usual shops

where fans buy tickets. The official receipts of more than 550 million lire (£124,000) were a new Italian record, despite the fact that with San Siro being rebuilt they are 14,000 short of capacity temporarily.

11 NATIONALITIES AT COSMOS

Iranian Eskandarian, with the Brazilian playboy Francisco Marinho occupying the left-back berth. Sweeper is the evergreen Carlos Alberto, Brazil's 1970 World Cup-winning captain. Cosmos captain Werner Roth usually plays stopper, but he's been injured and doubts are being expressed about his future, especially as the club have just bought Dutch star Wim Rijsbergen from Bastia. The Italian

Giuseppe Wilson arrives from Lazio soon and he is tipped to take over that spot.

In midfield is Franz Beckenbauer and Vladislav Bogicevic, with Americans Ricky Davis and Boris Brandov challenging for the defensive position in the midfield trio.

Up-front is Dennis Tueart, who was plagued by injuries last summer, top scorer Georgio Chinaglia and Serginho of Portugal. Firmani makes no secret that he'd like Steve Hunt back. "I've spoken to Stevie and he sounded keen, but I don't know about Coventry City," says Firmani.

And then there's Johan Cruyff; chairman Nesuhi Ertegun says: "It doesn't make sense that a man of 32 in such fabulous condition should retire. My dream is to have Johan as a Cosmos player. It isn't money — we've made him an extremely good offer."

The Cosmos have also spoken with Cor Coster, agent for Cruyff and Neeskens. "We are very interested in Neeskens," says Ertegun.

The international make-up of the club can cause problems. As American Ricky Davis says: "One little thing goes wrong and it's a jungle in there."

Yet with 18,000 season ticket holders and an average attendance of around 50,000 last year, the Cosmos will no doubt make it three-in-a-row this season — with or without Cruyff.

● Picture shows Franz Beckenbauer in his luxurious New York apartment.

Town council postpone match

TWO amusing stories to reach me from Holland, the first involving Volendam boss Jan Mak. Jan had the flu when Volendam played in Haarlem, yet still wanted to help his team.

In order that he wouldn't spread his germs around, Jan gave his half-time talk to the Volendam captain out on the pitch, and the skipper went inside and passed the message on to the players. Crazy? Volendam won 1-0!

And VVV of Venlo are in trouble with the Dutch F.A. Their game against AZ '67 was postponed by the town council, who own their stadium. The council considered the pitch unplayable, and although the referee disagreed and wanted the match to go ahead, the council committee said "no". The F.A. will take action against the club, who may have to play a certain number of home games away from their own stadium.

● Famous Dutch international Wim van Hanegem has left AZ '67 to join the Chicago Sting.

NEWS FLASHES

The French and United States F.A.s have agreed to play a friendly between the two countries every other year; the first is in New York next month.



DIRCEU

The Brazilian was livid: "I'm an internationally-famous player, and I won't play in the reserves," he said, as a prelude to skipping training for several days.

Returning reluctantly to the fold, Dirceu exploded again when Cardenas sat him on the substitutes' bench for a match in Monterrey. "I'm one of the stars of the best footballing nations in the world, and I'm damned if I'm going to sit on the bench at some backwoods club in an under-developed country."

That really did it, and both the club directors and the player agreed that a transfer was the only solution. "I want to go back to Brazil," said Dirceu. "I know the fans pelted us with eggs when we got back from Argentina, but at least they respect me as a star. What's more, Coutinho has been confirmed as the national team manager, and I still figure in his plans for the future."

"I know a lot of people have criticised Coutinho mercilessly, but it must be the most difficult job in the world. Look at Zagalo for example. Twice World Champion as a player and again as a manager. But when he got back from the 1974 World Cup he needed police protection for weeks!

"Most of the trouble is that every Brazilian journalist has his

'favourites' and the Press made a lot of the fact that Coutinho had had very little experience as a manager. Personally, I rate him as an excellent coach, but I do feel he lacks experience when it comes to tactical plays.

"Having said that, I like him a lot because he's an educated man, who speaks all the important languages well, treats the players well, and plans training sessions well.

"He's unfortunate in having the difficult task of changing the mentality of Brazilian football. Pure skill isn't enough these days — you've got to add non-stop running, much more marking, and some important psychological changes that the traditional Brazilian player finds hard to grasp.

"But it's useless talking about my international career when I'm stuck in the backwoods of Mexico. I've decided that the only sensible way for me to further my career is to go back to Brazil. I think I'm a good asset for any club — I'm not a tremendous sprinter, but I'm a dynamic sort of player who covers a lot of ground and who has a lot of stamina.

"I work for my team and I've got a good shot, particularly from dead-ball situations. And I can guarantee 12 or 13 goals a season, which isn't bad for a midfielder."

FIRST hat-trick of the 1979 North American Soccer League season was scored by former Aberdeen and Scotland star David Robb for Philadelphia Fury. Peruvian Teofilio Cubillas got off the mark for Fort Lauderdale Strikers with a goal against New England Tea Men; George Best made his comeback after suspension, too.

TWO of Rumania's most experienced campaigners, Jordanescu and Dobrin, missed the vital European Championship clash with Spain (2-2) after being suspended by their F.A. Jordanescu apparently left the team's hotel without permission (to sit an examination, he claims) while Dobrin is reported to be serving a four-match suspension for "overdrinking"...



ROUGH PLAY IN SPAIN

SPANISH football has the reputation of being among Europe's dirtier varieties, and the Press over there is quick to admit that there's a good deal of unnecessary and distasteful violence that leads to an almost incredible crop of serious injuries every season.

Foreigners who go to play in Spain are often amazed how often opponents go unashamedly for the man and complain that referees are slow to clamp down on the really dangerous faults.

Of course, it's difficult to make international comparisons of 'dirty' play, but I thought it might be interesting to look at the numbers of yellow and red cards that had been shown after the first 25 fixtures in the Spanish League.

Here goes:

Club	Yellow Cards	Red Cards	Total	League Position
Huelva	13	0	13	18th
Real Madrid	12	0	12	2nd
Celta	11	1	12	17th
Sporting Gijón	10	1	11	1st
Burgos	10	0	10	11th
Athletic Bilbao	9	0	9	10th
Real Sociedad	9	1	10	6th
Rayo Vallecano	9	2	11	15th
Salamanca	10	0	10	12th
Barcelona	8	1	9	5th
Las Palmas	8	1	9	4th
Hercules	11	1	12	14th
Espanol	10	2	12	7th
Atletico Madrid	12	4	16	3rd
Valencia	10	2	12	8th
Zaragoza	12	7	19	13th
Sevilla	10	2	12	9th
Racing Santander	10	3	13	16th

Oddly, the top four in the "fair play" League are the top two and the bottom two in the League! By way of comparison, at a similar stage in the English First Division only four teams (Everton, Southampton, Q.P.R. and Birmingham) had totalled more than 20 yellow cards in the season, and none had been on the wrong end of more than two red cards.

A third of the English First Division clubs had received less warnings than Spanish League leaders Huelva. And no fewer than nine Spanish clubs have a much worse disciplinary record than any English club.

JÜRGEN SUNDERMANN has been a big hit as manager of VfB Stuttgart, leading them to promotion and up amongst the leaders in the Bundesliga. But at the end of the season he is expected to replace Helmut Johannson as boss of Swiss club Grasshoppers. Sundermann spent ten years working in Switzerland and now his wife Monika and children Marc and Lief have persuaded him to go back because they like Switzerland with its skiing in the winter and swimming in the summer.

PAULO CÉSAR, the Brazilian playboy Fulham almost bought, has been sentenced to six months in prison for physically assaulting a minor who apparently insulted him as he left the pitch in a 1976 game. However, as a first offender, Paulo César may benefit from a suspended sentence; this will depend on the appeal entered by his lawyer.

Names in the news

OLEG BLOCHIN of Dynamo Kiev had scored 148 League goals at the start of the Russian season and needed just nine more to beat the record held by Nikita Simonian, current national team-manager... EBERHARD VOGEL, who is still playing for Carl Zeiss Jena, is East Germany's record scorer with 169 League goals... SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS celebrated his 65th birthday by playing for the Paolo Post Office team in Malta; they won 1-0... OTTO ELSNER of Hamburg 1916 goes one better, because aged 72 he played his 1,000th game recently... PELE has apparently invested in a Safari Hotel in Kenya... DINO ZOFF has saved 18 of the 52 penalties he's faced in the Italian League... CHETALI, Tunisia's World Cup manager, has signed for El Ain of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates for a salary of £115,000 a year... Inter Milan have offered Lanerossi £3 million for striker PAOLO ROSSI... Bayern Munich have signed TONI SCHROBENHAUER as understudy to SEPP MAIER. He's the seventh goalkeeper to play second fiddle to Maier — the previous six left without ever getting a game, as Sepp has been ever present for 13 years...



GERD MÜLLER has a good English teacher — his wife, Uschi. The former Bayern Munich striker, now with Fort Lauderdale Strikers, doesn't speak English yet, but his wife does. She learnt the language in the many hours she had to herself while Gerd (seen here, right, training near Munich) was away with Bayern and West Germany...

The Yugoslav national team recently played against an XI chosen by critical journalists... and lost 2-1.

In the 1978 season in Denmark, that country's first "professional season", attendances at First Division games totalled 1.3 million... a drop of ten per cent on 1977. Meanwhile, in Greece, the average attendances in the first half of their current campaign was only 8,368.

Goal-ace Ruud Geels has been absent from the Anderlecht team,

but no one seems to know why. Some say he's ill, other speak of a heart complaint and some say he's physically tired. Anderlecht just say he'll be back soon.

East German referee Gerhard Bude recently postponed the 1.F.C. Magdeburg v Union Berlin match because he felt the ice and snow covered pitch was dangerous in view of the fact that Magdeburg had a Cup-Winners' Cup match with Banik Ostrava four days later. It was the only D.D.R. game that day.

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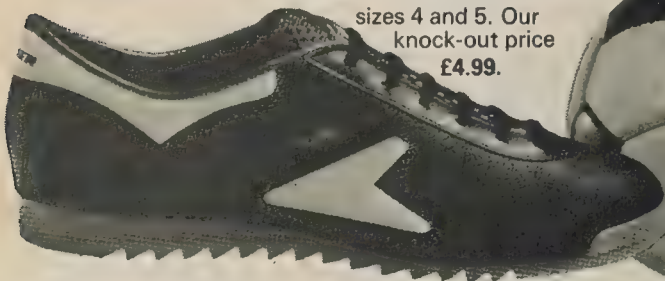
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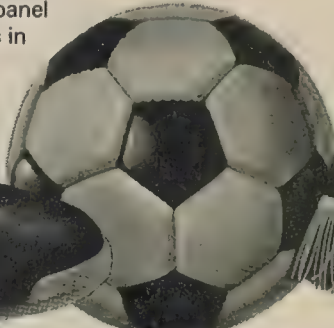


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HAVING won Championship medals with Liverpool, Kevin Keegan could become one of the few players to win a League winners' medal in another country. Hamburger SV are one of the three teams challenging for the Bundesliga title. Their 3-0 win over leaders 1.FC Kaiserslautern kept HSV in contention. SHOOT'S Chris Davies went to Hamburg to bring you the latest on Kevin's progress in West Germany.

KEEGAN SET FOR A RARE CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLE

KEVIN Keegan is confident of winning a rare double with Hamburger SV this season, becoming one of the few players who have picked up Championship medals in different countries. HSV beat Bundesliga leaders 1.FC Kaiserslautern 3-0 in a controversial game and with the League drawing to a close, the Hamburg club have a good chance of the title.

As the table shows, Kaiserslautern are still in the lead, but Keegan told me: "Even so, I wouldn't change places with them or VfB Stuttgart. Our fate is in our own hands, really. After beating Kaiserslautern, we had ten games remaining, six of those at home."

"If a team is going to win the Championship, it must win its matches at home. Our away games are against sides in the bottom half of the Bundesliga and our run-in is the easiest of the three clubs at the top, if anything is easy, that is. I'm confident of playing in the European Cup next season."

The 3-0 win against Kaiserslautern was a stormy affair, with the visiting defender Hans-Günter being sent-off in the 17th minute for dissent. No one seemed

to know exactly what happened just before the red card was shown, or if they did, they weren't telling.

Keegan was fouled yet again, but still managed to release the ball. Kaiserslautern stopped, perhaps expecting a free-kick to be awarded; photographers on the touch-line said the referee blew his whistle. Whatever, the ball broke to Peter Hidien, who scored.

Even HSV didn't know what was going on for a few seconds. When the referee, Herr Eschweiler, pointed to the centre-spot, Hidien and Keegan were mobbed by jubilant team-mates. The referee was less joyously surrounded by Kaiserslautern players. Hannes Riedl was booked for not giving the ball to the referee and amid the confusion the red card was shown to Neues.

"Honestly, I don't know what happened," Kevin told me after the game. "I was fouled and the next thing I saw was the ball flashing into the top right hand corner of the net. I didn't even know who had scored until I looked at the electric score-board."

From that moment the game ceased to exist as a true contest. Kaiserslautern were obviously

BUNDESLIGA . . . CURRENT PLACINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1. VfB Stuttgart	29	17	7	5	58	27	+31	41
2. Hamburger SV	28	17	6	5	61	29	+32	40
3. Kaiserslautern	29	15	10	4	56	37	+29	40
4. Bay. Munich	28	13	7	8	59	36	+23	33
5. Ein. Frankfurt	29	13	6	10	42	42	—	32
6. 1.FC Cologne	28	11	9	8	45	36	+9	31
7. Düsseldorf	28	11	8	9	57	48	+9	30
8. VfL Bochum	29	9	11	9	43	40	+3	29
9. Hertha Berlin	29	9	10	10	37	39	-2	28
10. Braunschweig	29	9	10	10	42	46	-4	28
11. Bor. Dortmund	29	8	9	12	47	65	-18	25
12. Werder Bremen	27	8	8	11	39	50	-11	24
13. Schalke 04	27	7	9	11	45	48	-3	23
14. Mönchengladb.	27	9	5	13	36	43	-7	23
15. Arm. Bielefeld	28	8	7	13	36	44	-8	23
16. MSV Duisburg	26	8	5	13	33	48	-15	21
17. 1.FC Nürnberg	29	7	6	16	29	58	-29	20
18. Darmstadt 98	29	5	7	17	32	61	-29	17

continued overleaf



Kevin comes out to the cheers of the HSV fans.

KEEGAN continued

affected by what they considered a gross injustice and HSV always had the edge with the extra man.

"I was sorry it wasn't 11 against 11," said Keegan. "I would have preferred an even contest to see which is the better side, but it wasn't to be. I'll usually back a player. Neues gave the referee no alternative than to send him off, though. It spoilt the game."

Maybe, but it was still a tremendously exciting, if uneven, match.

"It was a good performance by us," agreed the 28-year-old England star. "In fairness, Kaiserslautern fought like tigers. It sometimes happens when a team has only ten men, the others find that little bit extra. It was never easy for us."

From the unexpected luxury of a heated Press Box, I found it a fascinating experience. There is something very special about hearing 60,000 Germans chanting "Keegan — Keegan". The Germans, justifiably perhaps, believe their football is the best, so it says volumes for the likeable Keegan that he has totally conquered a

critical country. They love him; his was the only name I heard chanted. When the teams were read out, the Hamburg fans gave a roar even the Kop would have been proud of when "Keegan" was announced.

Kevin's reputation, naturally, makes him a marked man. From the kick-off, Jürgen Groh sprinted (yes, sprinted) to Keegan's side, but the task of policing Kevin proved too much for him.

By the fourth minute the referee was speaking to Groh after his third foul on the HSV star. The action was fast and furious, with Ronnie Hellström being tested by Willi Reimann early on. In the sixth minute, Keegan brilliantly sent over a centre from the right, but no HSV forward was on hand to take advantage of it.

Every Keegan touch was greeted by a roar of approval; he could do

HOW THEY LINED UP

HSV

Kargus
Kaltz Buljan Nogly Hidién
Hartwig Magath Memering
Reimann Hrubesch Keegan

Riedl Topmøller Geye
Bongartz Groh Melzer
Meyer Neues Briegel Schwarz
Hellström

KAISERSLAUTERN



Kevin and his marker, Jürgen Groh.

no wrong. Kevin was playing up-front, from the left, pulling his marker all over the place and creating space for the HSV midfielders to exploit.

There was no doubt they deserved their 17th minute lead, even if the goal was scored under dubious circumstances. Incidentally, I was very impressed by the scorer, Hidien, who looks an attacking left-back in the Paul Breitner mould.

By 20 minutes there had been five free-kicks awarded for fouls on Keegan, a sign of the panic he was causing in the Kaiserslautern defence.

A poor back-pass by HSV skipper Peter Nogly almost let in Bundesliga top scorer Klaus Topmøller, but the Hamburg sweeper recovered. Rudi Kargus had still not had a shot to save.

A shot by Yugoslav defender



On top, as usual . . . that's Mighty Mouse.

LEFT . . . Chase for a loose ball.
RIGHT . . . The controversial sending-off after HSV's first goal.
BELOW, RIGHT . . . Many HSV supporters wear the colours of Liverpool, too.
BELOW, LEFT . . . Interview for German T.V. before the match.



Ivan Buljan took a wicked deflection which Hellström was happy to see go for a corner. In the 29th minute Caspar Memering headed wide when scoring seemed easier and five minutes later a Keegan header shaved the post.

In the 42nd minute HSV went further ahead with a superbly worked goal. After patiently stroking the ball around, waiting for an opening (which would no doubt have brought cries of impatience from British fans) Buljan passed to Memering on the left. His near-

post centre was headed in by the diving Felix Magath.

At half-time it was 2-0; it could and should have been double that. HSV had looked good as an attacking force, with many variations to their play. Kaiserslautern had their backs to the wall and although they were battling away, they were never going to recover with only ten men.

There was some amusing entertainment at half-time when various teams raced "a la It's A Knock-out", pushing a huge "fire-breathing" dragon around the running track. Fans of Eddie Waring and Stuart Hall will be happy to know the winning time was 60.3 seconds.

Kaiserslautern began the second-half searching for the goal they needed so badly if they were to salvage anything. In the 52nd minute Hansgünter Briegel hit the crossbar with a firm header and any chance the Bundesliga leaders had went. One way or the other, it wasn't Kaiserslautern's night.

A minute later sch . . . you-know-who set up a glorious chance for Hartwig, who headed wide. Soon afterwards, there was a comical

continued overleaf



KEEGAN continued

incident involving Briegel. Caught in possession, he was forced to dribble at speed back towards his own goal, pursued by two HSV forwards. Eventually Briegel passed to the relieved Hellström.

In the 60th minute Keegan scored the goal he so richly deserved. An outswinging free-kick on the left deceived the Kaiserslautern defence for Mighty Mouse to head past Hellström. I wondered whether the Swedish international goalkeeper was at fault for not coming off his line.

"Not really," said Keegan after a moment's thought. "The ball was always going away from him. It was a good free-kick. Ronnie certainly had no chance once I'd got to it."

Kevin is an admirer of the 30-year-old Swede.

"I always knew he was a good goalie, although I never appreciated how good until I came to Germany. If Kaiserslautern win the League they should give Ronnie his own little Cup, because he, more than any other player, is the reason why they are where they are."

Keegan paused. "I don't want to make too many enemies back home, but there can't be a better goalkeeper in the world. Ronnie stops shots others pick out of the net."

The tempo of the game slowed a little in the final 20 minutes, mainly because Kevin was feeling the effect of the flu that had almost prevented him from playing.

"I was in bed all day yesterday and thought I had no chance. I woke up this morning feeling better, trained and must have sweated the cold out. I still felt tired in the last stages of the game. My legs went."

Even a "legless" Keegan still caused trouble for Kaiserslautern and only a last-ditch tackle robbed Kevin of a second goal. This tackle resulted in the seventh corner being won by Keegan for HSV.

Kaiserslautern refused to submit and in the 83rd minute Rainer Geyte tested Kargus with a 25-yard World Cup special. Kargus was equal to the challenge and it was, in fact, the first occasion he'd been tested in the entire game.

Three-nil was a satisfying enough scoreline, although another couple of goals would not

have flattered HSV.

Having seen two of the top three teams in action, it appears to me that the Bundesliga isn't quite what it used to be. Neither HSV nor Kaiserslautern are in the class of Bayern Munich or Borussia Mönchengladbach of the early Seventies.

"Agreed," said Keegan, "but there were five Bundesliga clubs in the Semi-Finals of the European Cups. If the standard here has gone down, where does that leave the rest of Europe?"

Kevin is loving every minute of his career now. "There were problems in my first season. The language... the change of environment... problems with certain team-mates. But everything is okay now."

"The coach gives me a free role, which suits me. I'm not the type of player who can be restricted, I don't have many responsibilities, and I see a lot of the ball. It's like a magnet."

And the future?

"I've signed a one-year contract with HSV and if I'm as happy as I am this time next year, who knows, I may be here until I'm 50!"



ABOVE... Kevin is congratulated after his header had made it 3-0.

RIGHT... HSV coach Branco Zebec shows the strain of the photo-finish to the Bundesliga. It could even be that goal-difference will determine where the title will eventually go.

LEFT... Kaiserslautern's three top stars — captain Klaus Topmüller, Swedish international goalkeeper Ronnie Hellström and midfielder Hannes Bongartz.



'I WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR CHELSEA'

says KEN SWAIN (Aston Villa)



"As I was out of the Chelsea first team, and not likely to get back in although I thought I was good enough, I decided a move was best for all concerned," says Ken.

"I had requested a transfer, but heard nothing for a couple of weeks. Then completely out of the blue then manager, Ken Shellito, told me Aston Villa boss Ron Saunders had made an approach and wanted to speak with me. Ironically this happened on the Wednesday prior to Chelsea's home game with Villa. I travelled to Birmingham on the Friday and immediately agreed terms.

'Suspended'

"I watched the match on the Saturday and made my decision over the weekend. I was all set to sign on the Monday, but the Chelsea board suspended the move.

"There was a bit of a haggle over the fee, but eventually it was agreed to let me go at the original price. I'd only had one direct contact with another club and that was Fulham.

"I was at Stamford Bridge for five enjoyable years. I learned to play in different positions and read and understand the game.

"But I left one good club to join a better one.

"Obviously I'm disappointed Chelsea have been relegated. I still have a lot of affection for the club.

"Before I left the chairman Brian Mears assured me the club were as big as Aston Villa and that I had a future at Stamford Bridge if I wanted to stay.

"But Villa offered me immediate first team football. They were desperate for a striker with both Andy Gray and Brian Little out injured at the time. In fact, there was only one recognised forward

available and that was John Deehan."

Ken, 27, and born in Liverpool made his debut for Villa against Norwich on December 16th.

"Considering it was my first game for the club I was quite pleased with my display," he says.

"Villa are a more organised and professional outfit. They play it simple... going forward as much as possible. Chelsea are attack minded, but they aren't as tight at the back. Over recent years Villa have achieved more than Chelsea, so they've got to have a better bunch of players as far as footballing skills go."

At Chelsea, Ken proved himself to be equally at home in midfield or up-front. In their promotion year he scored 14 goals alongside Steve Finnieston. Last season when he switched to midfield he notched eight.

"I'd call myself a co-striker," he says. "I'm not a prolific goalscorer, but I will grab my quota."

How does Ken find Ron Saunders?

"For a start he's from the Liverpool area, so too are John Gidman and Dennis Mortimer—that makes four of us. He has a reputation of being a hard man, but that's a little unfair.

"His results at Villa have shown he's got what it takes. He's very honest and an extremely tireless worker. He expects 110 per cent from everybody.

"If the club finish in the top ten this season, I'll be reasonably happy. But next season if we can steer clear of injury problems and sharpen up in front of goal I fully expect to land among the honours."

If that happens for Ken Swain and Aston Villa, Chelsea will seem a world away.

NOTTS County shocked a lot of people with their exciting bid for promotion from the Second Division this season.

Many eyebrows were raised in disbelief when a look at the League table showed County — the 'poor relations' of Nottingham — prominently up there in the leading bunch.

But Jeff Blockley was not among those taken aback by County's exploits. He expected them to be challenging for honours.

That's why he agreed to join County from Leicester last summer. Remember Blockley? He began his career with Coventry, earned England honours and a big money move to Arsenal before joining Leicester under Jimmy Bloomfield.

"I saw the potential was here when County came in for me during the last close-season. I realised they had the set-up to do well, that's why I agreed to join them. And I have not regretted it for a minute," says Blockley, still only 29

'Count on County for promotion — next year'

says JEFF BLOCKLEY

"Manager Jimmy Sirrel impressed me as an honest, straightforward man. I like that — because you always know where you stand.

"He has done a wonderful job for this club. For in his previous spell here he took them from Fourth to Second Division and left them in a very healthy position before he quit to join Sheffield United.

"Now he is back and carrying on precisely where he left off last time. He has put together a more than useful side and even if we left this season's challenge late the prospects must look tremendous for next year.

"Funnily enough it was a defeat earlier this season that really convinced us how good we were and gave us the extra bit of confidence to send us on our way.

"It came at Arsenal in the Fourth Round of the F.A. Cup. They beat us 2-0 — but we played really well and could have caused a real upset if justifiable claims for a penalty had not been turned down when the scores were level.

"We thought then if we could handle one of the best sides in the country like that there was not too much to fear in the Second Division.

"From that point we became a lot more solid and tight. We had been inclined to be slack and give silly goals away before.

"We have not done that since — and if anybody gets anything off us now they have to work really hard for it.

"Hard work and organisation have been the name of our game.

"We have also earned the reputation of being a difficult side to beat and one or two of the 'fan-cied' sides were very wary of us."

Almost inevitably Blockley is often asked whether a city like Nottingham could support two First Division clubs and if he resents the spectacular success enjoyed by neighbours Forest.

On the first point he says: "No one knows how we would get on with two First Division clubs here — it has never happened to be put to the test.

"Forest boss Brian Clough is always commenting on the lack of support his side get — and when you consider what they have done I think he certainly has a point.

"We have averaged about 9,000 this year at Meadow Lane. That, to be honest, is not very good. But then we have to admit the fans have not had too much to get excited about over the years.

"I'd be happy to clinch that place in the First Division with County — and worry about the support aspect afterwards!



"And as for being resentful of Forest — rubbish. I'm envious, of course, but that's completely different.

"I'm also full of admiration for them. What Brian Clough and Peter Taylor have achieved there in the last three years has been unbelievable.

"They have pushed us into the background with their exploits. All the more reason for us to get up there with them and enjoy a taste of the big time ourselves.

"I've spent most of my life in the First Division. It's the only place to be — and if I can help Notts County to get there I will feel I have made a useful contribution here."

'West Brom take double award'

THIS Saturday sees the last complete League programme of the season, a season which has been one of misery for Chelsea. I wrote about our relegation plight in my last column, so there is no need to go over that ground, although there is still plenty to talk about.

THE BEST SIDE Chelsea have played against are Spurs, in the second-half of the game at Stamford Bridge. We should have been three-up at the interval instead of just 1-0, but after the break Spurs played some superb football to win 3-1.

Inspired by Osvaldo Ardiles, they created chance after chance and really turned it on.

Funnily enough, Liverpool didn't impress me that much against us; we played competently even in defeat at Anfield, and more than held our own in the 0-0 draw at The Bridge. But they're a great side. Their Merseyside neighbours, Everton, played well when they won through an Andy King goal at our place.

THE MOST DISAPPOINTING TEAM for me are Manchester City. Last August, I thought they would have a good chance of winning the Championship.

How wrong can you be? I looked at the table the other week and they were sixth from bottom. I don't know why they've failed. Looking at their squad, there are plenty of fine players. Something must be happening for City to have struggled so much... even their manager, Tony Book, has been scathing in the Press about their performances.

Organisation

THE SURPRISE SIDE of 1978/79 have been West Brom. I always reckoned they'd be somewhere near the top, not pushing Liverpool so hard for the title, however. Their strength is their organisation and the way the players work for each other.

West Brom figure in my **BEST OLDIE** of the season, as, for my money, Tony Brown has played better than ever, despite having celebrated his 30th birthday a couple of years ago. I remember watching Bomber even before I was an apprentice and I admire the way he's stuck by Albion through thick and thin.

I'll even name Tony in my **BEST TELEVISED GOAL** of the campaign — his volley against Leeds was the sort of goal everyone dreams of scoring. More recently, I was impressed by goals from another two over-30's, Ralph Coates and Martin Chivers, in the exciting 3-3 draw between Orient and Brighton.

Ralph, like Tony, scored a screamer of a goal, while Martin's header was reward for finishing the move which he'd started. Brighton have a bargain in Chivers; at £15,000 they can't go wrong and his experience will be vital at such an impor-

tant time for the club.

Sadly, I have a wide variety of goals to choose from for the **BEST GOAL SCORED AGAINST CHELSEA**. Two spring to mind. The first, by John Duncan for Spurs at White Hart Lane very early in the season after fine work on the bye-line by Ardiles and Villa. The other was a superb half-volley by John Wark for

RAY WILKINS
Writes for you



Tony Brown (stripes) and West Brom have done exceptionally well this season



Ipswich at Portman Road.

Ipswich are our opponents this weekend, and I'll be interested to have a close look at their Dutch stars Arnold Mühren and Frans Thijssen. By all accounts, Bobby Robson has a couple of "snips" as they are playing very well.

I've played against five foreign stars so far: Ardiles and Villa, who have adapted quickly, especially Ardiles. Fellow Argentine Alberto Tarantini had personal problems and has now gone back home. Playing in a poor Birmingham side obviously didn't help, neither did playing three or four different roles.

Bristol City's Dutch left-winger Geert Meijer impressed me the other week, scoring a good goal. He's fast, two-footed, strong and you could be hearing a lot more of him.

Southampton's Ivan Golac, from Yugoslavia, has quickly made a name for himself.

Even so, the **OUTSTANDING FOREIGNER** has to be Ardiles. I can understand him being a little jaded of late, as he's had so much football in the past year. He's done brilliantly and I have no doubts about his ability to last a full League season. You have to make allowances for the World Cup and the fact this is his first season in a different country.

THE BEST NEWCOMER is Kenny Sansom of Crystal Palace, who I believe could win full England honours this summer. He's almost the complete left-back; the only weakness I've seen is his right foot.

RESULTS... SCORERS... TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

SECOND DIVISION

Continued

CAMBRIDGE 0
BRIGHTON 0 8,455
Cambridge: Webster; Graham, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, Buckley, Garner (Cozens), Spriggs, Murray, Finney, Biley.
Brighton: Steele; Cattlin, Williams, Horton, Rollings, Lawrenson, Ryan, Ward (Maybank), Poskett, Clark, O'Sullivan.

CARDIFF (0) 1 (Buchanan pen.)
STOKE (2) 3 (Randall, O'Callaghan, Crooks) 14,869
Cardiff: Davies; Roberts, Sullivan, Campbell, Dwyer, Pontin, Grapes, Bishop, Moore, Evans (Lewis), Buchanan.
Stoke: Jones; Dodd, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Doyle, Randall, Irvine, O'Callaghan, Richardson, Crooks.

LUTON (0) 0
C. PALACE (1) 1 (Nicholas) 11,008
Luton: Findlay; Stephens, Price, Donaghy, Turner, Carr (West), Hill, Aizlewood, Taylor, Hutton, Stein.
Palace: Burridge; Hinshelwood, Sansom, Kember, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Murphy, Swindlehurst, Walsh, Hilaire.

MILLWALL (0) 0
NOTTS CO (0) 1 (O'Brien) 5,717
Millwall: Cuff; Donaldson, Sparrow, Chambers, Kitchener, Tagg, Chatterton, Seaman, Mitchell (Mehmet), Walker, O'Callaghan.
Notts Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Blockley, Stubbs, Mann, McCulloch, Masson, Hooks, Hunt, Vinter (McVay).

SUNDERLAND (0) 1 (Rowell)
ORIENT (0) 0 21,189
Sunderland: Siddall; Henderson, Bolton, Docherty, Clarke, Elliott, Buckley, Rostron, Entwistle, Lee, Rowell.
Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Grealish, Gray, Went, Chiedozie, Clarke, Mayo, Whittle (Godfrey), Banjo.

WEST HAM (4) 5 (Devonshire, Robson, Lampard, McDowell 2)
NEWCASTLE (0) 0 24,650
West Ham: Parkes; Lampard, Brush, McDowell, Martin, Bonds, Holland, Devonshire, Cross, Brookling (Pike), Robson.
Newcastle: Hardwick; Brownlie, Mitchell, Martin, Bird, Nattrass, Shoulder, Walker (Wharton), Withe, Hibbitt, Connolly.

WREXHAM (0) 1 (Whittle)
FULHAM (1) 1 (Kitchen) 9,046
Wrexham: Davies; Cegielski, Jones, Dwyer, Roberts, Giles, Shinton, Sutton, Whittle, Cartwright, Fox (Lyons).
Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Bullivant, Money, Gale, Lock, Evanson, Mahoney (Margerison), Kitchen, Beck.
Postponed: Sheff. U v Leicester.

THIRD DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (McEwan)
WATFORD (1) 1 (Garner) 9,253
Blackpool: Hesford; Malone, Pashley, McEwan, Suddaby, Waldron, Kellow, Kerr, Spence, Ronson, Weston.
Watford: Rankin; Stirr, Pritchett, Booth, Bolton, Garner, Pollard, Blissett, Jenkins, Joslyn, Downes (Train).

CHESTERFIELD (0) 2 (McDonald o.g., Simpson)
CARLISLE (0) 3 (Kemp, Lumby, Tait) 4,152
Chesterfield: Letheran; Burton, Hunter, Tait (Simpson), Cottam, Prophet, Kowalski, Moss, Fern, Salmons, Cammack.
Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, McCartney, MacDonald, Tait, Parke, McVitie (McLean), Bonnyman, Kemp, Lumby, Ludlam.

COLCHESTER (0) 1 (Hodge pen.)
BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Shrubbs) 3,528
Colchester: Walker; Cook, Wright, Hodge, Dowman, Gough, Packer, Foley, Dyer, Lee, Allinson.
Brentford: Bond; Salman, Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Graham (J), Carlton, Shrubbs, Glover, Smith, Phillips (Allder).

EXETER (1) 2 (Neville, Sims)
SHEFF. WED (1) 2 (Wyld, Hornsby) 4,521

Exeter: O'Keefe; Templeman, Hore, Forbes, Giles, Roberts, Neville, Pearson, Bowker, Sims, Hatch.

Sheff. W: Turner; Shirliff, Grant, Pickering, Smith, Mullen, Wyld, Porterfield, Lowey, Johnson, Hornsby.

GILLINGHAM 0
MANSFIELD 0 6,935
Gillingham: Hillyard; Sharpe, Barker, Overton, Weatherley, Crabbe, Nicholl, White, Price, Westwood, Jolley (Hughes).
Mansfield: New; Dawkins, Foster (B), Bird, Curtis, McClelland, Miller (Allen), Martin, Carter, Goodwin, Hamilton.

HULL (0) 1 (Hawker)
ROTHERHAM (0) 0 4,717
Hull: Blackburn; Nisbet, Skipper, Roberts, Croft, Haigh, Hawker, Lord, Edwards, Bannister, Stewart (Galvin).
Rotherham: McAlister; Forrest, Breckin, Stancliffe, Green, Flynn, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Carr, Crawford.

LINCOLN (1) 2 (Harford, Fleming pen.)
SWANSEA (0) 1 (James) 3,568
Lincoln: Grotier; Fleming, Laybourne, Guest, Cross, Cooper, Hubbard, Ward, Harford, Sunley, Cockerill.
Swansea: Crudgington; Evans (Smith), Bartley, Phillips, Stevenson, Charles, Attley, James, Curtis, Waddle, Callaghan.

PETERBOROUGH (1) 2 (Cooke, Smith)
PLYMOUTH (1) 1 (Johnson) 4,039
Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Styles, Doyle, Smith, Ross, Guy, Sharkey (Robson), Cooke, McEwan, Cliss.
Plymouth: Hodge; Uzzell, McNeil, James, Clarke, Bason, Johnson, Megson, Binney, Harrison, Rogers.



Garth Crooks scored for Stoke City against Cardiff City.

SHREWSBURY 0
OXFORD 0 6,791
Shrewsbury: Wardle; Hayes, Leonard, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Birch, Atkins, Tong, Biggins, Maguire (Lindsay).
Oxford: Burton; Taylor, Fogg, Briggs, Bodel, Jeffrey, McGrogan, Duncan, Berry, Seacole, Hodgson.

SOUTHEND 0
BURY 0 8,531
Southend: Cawston; Stead, Yates, Laverick, Cusack, Moody, Morris, Polycarpou, Parker, Dudley, Pountney.
Bury: Forrest; Ritson, Constantine, Lugg, Tucker, Whitehead, Wilson, Kennedy, Beamish, Gregory, Taylor.

SWINDON (2) 4 (Rowland 2, Mayes, McHale)
CHESTER (1) 1 (Oakes) 5,678
Swindon: Allan; Hamilton, Ford, McHale, Aizlewood, Stroud, Miller, Carter, Rowland, Mayes, Williams (Bates).
Chester: Johnson; Cliff, Mathias, Parry, Williams, Evans, O'Neil, Bramhall, Kerr, Craven, McAuley.

WALSALL (0) 2 (Birch pen., Penn)
CHESTER (1) 1 (Oakes) 2,795
Walsall: Turner; Paul, Caswell, Jones, Serella, Sbragia, Birch, King, Austin, Penn, Kelly (Rees).
Chester: Lloyd; Nickeas, Walker, Storton, Jeffries, Oakes, Jones, Livermore, Edwards, Phillips, Henderson.

FOURTH DIVISION

ALDERSHOT (0) 2 (Needham, Dungworth)
NEWPORT (1) 3 (Lowndes, Wapler o.g., Tynan) 5,243
Aldershot: Johnson; Edwards, Howitt, Longhorn, Youlden, Wooler (Dixon), Crosby, Tomlin, Needham, Dungworth, McGregor.
Newport: Plumley; Walden, Relish, Davies, Oakes, Bruton, Bailey, Lowndes, Goddard, Tynan, Moore.

BARNLEY (2) 3 (Bell pen., Pugh, Little)
CREWE (1) 1 (Coyne) 8,945
Barnley: Springett; Collins, Chambers, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Little, Clarke, Graham, Millar, Bell.
Crewe: Rafferty; Hughes, Dulson, Purdie, Bowles, Bevan, Davies, Cheetham, Coyne, Warnock, Robertson.

BOURNEMOUTH 0
SCUNTHORPE 0 3,028
Bournemouth: Allen; Cunningham, Ferns, Miller, Butler (G), Borthwick, Holder, MacDougall, Butler (M), Lennard (Johnson), Massey.
Scunthorpe: Crawford; O'Donnell, Peacock, Oates, Deere, Czuczman, Grimes, Kilmore, Earl, Keeley, Kavanagh.

GRIMSBY (2) 3 (Waters, Brolly, Ford)
WIGAN (0) 1 (Wigginton o.g.) 8,252
Grimsby: Batch; Moore (D), Moore (K), Waters, Wigginton, Crombie, Brolly, Ford, Lester, Mitchell, Liddell.
Wigan: Brown; Smart, Hinnigan (Houghton), Gore, Ward, Fretwell, Corrigan, Wright, Brownbill, Moore, Purdie.

HEREFORD (1) 3 (Powell 2, Layton)
BRADFORD C (0) 1 (Cook) 2,925
Hereford: Hughes; Price, Burrows, Strong, Layton, Emery (Feeley), Stephens, Hendry, White, Gould, Powell.
Bradford C: Smith; Reaney, Wood, Dolan, Baines, Jackson, Robertson, Bates, Cook, McNiven, Martinez (Johnson).

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 2 (Robins 2)
DARLINGTON (1) 2 (Walsh, Peachey) 2,862
Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Sandercock, Holmes, Hanvey, Sutton, Robins, Hart, Fletcher, Howey, Armstrong.
Darlington: Burleigh; Nattress, Cochrane, Hague, Craig, Stone, Lyons, Wann, Ferguson, Peachey, Walsh.

NORTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Robertson)
TORQUAY (1) 2 (Green, Lawrence) 2,194
Northampton: Poole; Geidmintis, Mead, Woollett, Robertson, Saunders, Farrington, Williams, Froggatt, Reilly, McCaffrey.
Torquay: Turner; Darke (Wilson), Ritchie, Green, Payne, Dunne, Twitchin, Davies, Lawrence, Cooper, Coffill.

PORTSMOUTH (0) 1 (Showers)
YORK (0) 1 (Loggie) 9,353
Portsmouth: Mellor; Ellis, Milligan, Denyer, Foster, Davey, Hemmerman, Lathan (Wilson), Pullar, Showers, Bryant.
York: Neenan; Kay, Walsh, Pugh, Faulkner, Clements, Ford, Wellings, Loggie, McDonald, Stanforth.

PORT VALE (1) 1 (Beech)
WIMBLEDON (0) 0 2,906
Port Vale: Dance; Keenan, Griffiths, Beech, Delgado, Bentley, Sinclair, Farrell, Wright, Todd, Healy.
Wimbledon: Goddard; Briley, Eames, Driver (Haverson), Galvin, Bryant, Leslie, Galliers, Denny, Cork, Parsons.

ROCHDALE (1) 1 (Hoy)
READING (0) 0 1,565
Rochdale: Felgate; Hart, Creamer, Scaife, Taylor, Snookes, O'Loughlin, Hoy, Jones, Collins (Hilditch), Owen.
Reading: Death; Peters, White, Hetzke, Hicks, Bennett, Earles, Kearney, Kearns (Shipley), Wanklyn, Lewis.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

MORTON (0) 3 (McNeil, Anderson, Tolmie)
DUNDEE UTD (1) 1 (Dodds) 5,500
Morton: Baines; Hayes, Holmes, Anderson, Orr, McLaren (Scott), McNeil, Miller, Hutchison, Tolmie, Ritchie.
Dundee U: McAlpine; Kopel, Stark, Addison, Hegarty, Narey, Holt, Sturrock, Dodds, Fleming, Kirkwood.

ST. MIRREN (1) 2 (McGarvey, Bone)
HIBS (1) 3 (MacLeod, Higgins, Campbell) 8,500

St. Mirren: Thomson; Young, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Dunlop, Copland, Richardson, Stark (Torrance), Bone, Abercrombie, McGarvey.
Hibs: McArthur; Brazil, Duncan, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara, Hutchinson, MacLeod (Brown), Campbell, Callaghan, Higgins.

Postponed: Hearts v Partick; Motherwell v Aberdeen; Rangers v Celtic.

MONDAY, MARCH 26

FIRST DIVISION

BOLTON (2) 4 (Gowling 2, Worthington 2 pens)
ARSENAL (1) 2 (Price, Heeley) 20,704
Bolton: McDonagh; Nicholson, Dunne, Greaves, Jones, Walsh, Morgan, Whatmore, Gowling, Worthington, Smith.
Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Talbot (Heeley), O'Leary, Walford, Gating, Sunderland, Stapleton, Price, Rix.



A fine display from Kenny Sansom of Crystal Palace helped them to a valuable promotion point at Charlton.

W.B.A. (0) 2 (Cunningham, Brown, A.)
DERBY (1) 1 (Crawford) 20,010
W.B.A.: Godden; Batson, Statham, Trewick, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown (A) (Summerfield), Mills, Cantello, Cunningham.
Derby: Middleton; Langan, Buckley, Daly, McFarland, Wicks, Carter, Powell, Greenwood, Crawford, Moreland.

THIRD DIVISION

BRENTFORD (1) 2 (McCulloch, Smith)
SHREWSBURY (2) 3 (Biggins, Keay, Cross) 7,760
Brentford: Bond; Salman, Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Graham (J), Carlton, Shrubbs (Allder), Smith, McCulloch, Phillips.
Shrewsbury: Wardle; Hayes, Leonard, Cross, Griffin, Keay, Birch, Atkins, Tong, Biggins, Lindsay.

MANSFIELD (1) 1 (Allen)
EXETER (0) 1 (Barker) 4,562
Mansfield: New; Dawkins, Foster (B), Curtis, Saxby, Bird, Hamilton, Carter, McClelland, Martin, Allen.
Exeter: O'Keefe; Templeman, Hore, Randell, Giles, Roberts, Neville, Pearson, Sims, Bowker, Hatch.

TRANMERE 0
LINCOLN 0 1,222
Tranmere: Johnson, Flood, Mathias, Parry, Bramhall, Evans, Craven (Peplow), O'Neil, Kerr, Postlewaite, McAuley.
Lincoln: Grotier, Hubbard, Laybourne, Fleming, Cross, Cooper (Hobson), Guest, Ward, Sunley, Harford, Cockerill.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

ABERDEEN (3) 8 (Harper 3, McMaster, Archibald 2, Strachan, Davidson)
MOTHERWELL (0) 0 7,000
Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, McLelland, McMaster, Rougvie, Miller, Sullivan (Strachan), Archibald, Harper, Jarvie, Davidson.
Motherwell: Rennie; Kennedy, Wark, Kane (Mungall), Dempsey (Somerville), McLeod, Smith, Wilson, Larnach, Clinging, Donnelly.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

FIRST DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 (Givens) 12,168
NORWICH (0) 0
 Birmingham: Freeman; Page, Dennis, Towers, Gallagher, Pendrey, Ainscow, Buckley (Broadhurst), Givens, Barrowclough, Dillon.
 Norwich: Hansbury; Bond, Davies, McGuire, Hoadley, Powell, Neighbour (Peters), Reeves, Robson, Paddon, Evans.

MIDDLESBROUGH (2) 2 (Armstrong pen., Proctor)
MAN. UTD (0) 2 (McQueen, Coppell) 20,190
 Middlesbrough: Platt; Craggs, Johnson, Mahoney, Boam, McAndrew, Hodgson, Proctor, Ashcroft (Cochrane), Burns, Armstrong.
 Man. Utd.: Bailey; Nicholl, Albiston, McIlroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff (J), Jordan, Greenhoff (B), Thomas.

WOLVES (1) 1 (Carr)
MAN. CITY (0) 1 (Channon) 19,998
 Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, McAlle, Berry, Hibbit, Daley, Rafferty, Richards, Carr.
 Man. C.: Corrigan; Ranson, Power, Owen, Watson, Henry, Channon, Viljoen, Fitcher (R) (Palmer), Hartford, Barnes.

SECOND DIVISION

CHARLTON (1) 1 (Powell)
C. PALACE (1) 1 (Swindlehurst) 15,065
 Charlton: Wood; Campbell, Shaw, Gritt, Shipperley, Madden, Powell, Robinson (Peacock), Hales, Berry, Churchouse.
 Palace: BurrIDGE; Hinshelwood, Sansom, Kember, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Murphy, Swindlehurst, Hilaire, Welsh.

NOTTS CO. (1) 1 (McCulloch)
CARDIFF (0) 0 8,211
 Notts Co.: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Blockley, Stubbs, Mann, McCulloch, Masson, Hooks, Hunt, Vinter (Benjamin).
 Cardiff: Healey; Roberts, Sullivan, Campbell, Pontin, Dwyer, Grapes, Bishop, Evans, Moore, Buchanan.

ORIENT (1) 1 (Went pen.)
FULHAM (0) 0 6,645
 Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Grealish, Gray (N), Went, Chiedozi (Gray, M), Houghton, Mayo, Clarke, Coates.
 Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Bullivant, Money, Gale, Lock, Beck, Guthrie, Kitchen, Greenaway.

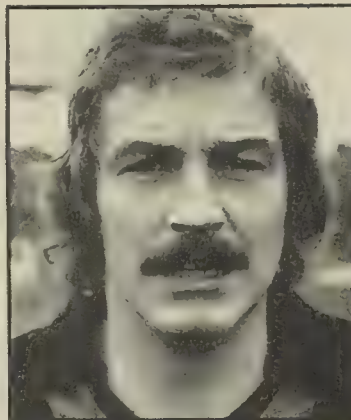
STOKE (0) 0
SUNDERLAND (1) 1 (Docherty) 24,023
 Stoke: Jones; Dodd (Busby), Scott, Kendall, Smith, Doyle, Randall, Irvine, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Richardson.
 Sunderland: Siddall; Whitworth, Bolton, Docherty, Clarke, Elliott, Chisholm, Roston, Entwistle, Buckley, Lee.

Postponed: Oldham v Burnley

THIRD DIVISION

BURY (0) 0
SWINDON (0) 1 (Rowland) 3,557
 Bury: Forrest; Constantine (Stanton), Kennedy, Ritson, Tucker, Whitehead, Lugg, Wilson, Johnson, Gregory, Taylor.
 Swindon: Allan; Hamilton, Ford, McHale, Aizlewood, Stroud, Miller, Carter, Rowland, Mayes (Trollope), Williams.

CARLISLE (0) 2 (Kemp, McCartney pen.)
HULL (0) 2 (Roberts, Edwards) 6,254
 Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, McCartney, MacDonald, Tait, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Ludlam, Kemp, Lumby.



Middlesbrough's John Mahoney had an inspired game helping his side to a point against Manchester United.

Hull: Blackburn; Nisbet, Skipper, Hawker, Croft, Haigh, Roberts, Horswill, Edwards, Bannister, Lord (Galvin).

ROTHERHAM (0) 1 (Phillips)
GILLINGHAM (1) 1 (Westwood) 3,239
 Rotherham: McAlister; Forrest, Breckin, Stancliffe, Green, Flynn, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Carr, Crawford.
 Gillingham: Hillyard; Sharpe, Barker, Overton, Weatherley, Crabbe, Nicholl, Hughes, Price, Westwood, White.

SHEFF. WED. (1) 3 (Wyde, Johnson, Hornsby pen.)
PETERBOROUGH (0) 0 9,868
 Sheff. W: Turner; Shirtliff, Grant, Mullen, Pickering, Johnson, Wyde, Porterfield, Owen, Lowey (Nimmo), Hornsby.
 Peterborough: Waugh; Hindley, Styles, Doyle, Smith, Ross, Sharkey, McEwan, Guy, Cooke, Robson.

SWANSEA (1) 4 (Waddle 2, James, Attley)
COLCHESTER (0) 1 (Lee) 11,645
 Swansea: Crudgington; Phillips, Bartley, Smith, Stevenson, Charles (Boersma), Attley, James, Curtis, Waddle, Callaghan.
 Colchester: Walker; Cook, Pecker, Wright, Dowman, Foley, Dyer, Allinson, Gough, Lee, Hodge.

WATFORD (2) 3 (Garner, Blissett, Sbragia o.g.)
WALSALL (1) 1 (Serella) 11,891
 Watford: Rankin; Stirr, Pritchett, Booth, Bolton, Garner, Pollard, Blissett, Jenkins, Joslyn, Train.
 Walsall: Turner; Macken, Caswell, Jones, Serella, Sbragia, King, Birch, Penn, Waddington, Kelly (Rees).

FOURTH DIVISION

DARLINGTON (0) 0
STOCKPORT (0) 1 (Bradd) 1,086
 Darlington: Burleigh; Nattress, Cochrane, Stone (Seal), Craig, Hague, Lyons, Wann, Ferguson, Peachey, Walsh.
 Stockport: Lawson; Thorpe, Rutter, Edwards, Smith, Armstrong, Henson, Summerbee, Bradd, Halford, Lee.

HALIFAX (0) 0
BARNLEY (0) 2 (Graham, Bell pen.) 5,654
 Halifax: Kilner; Hutt, Dunleavy, Smith, Trainer, Sidebottom, Firth, Kennedy, Campbell, Johnson, Loska (Nixon).

Barnley: Springett; Collins, Chambers, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Little, Riley, Graham, Millar, Bell.

SCUNTHORPE (0) 2 (Grimes, Earl)
PORT VALE (0) 0 1,472
 Scunthorpe: Crawford, O'Donnell, Peacock, Oates, Deere, Czuczman, Grimes, Kilmore, Earl, Kavanagh, Keeley.
 Port Vale: Dance; Keenan (Bromage), Griffiths, Beech, Delgado, Bentley, Sinclair, Farrell, Wright, Todd, Healy.

WIMBLEDON (1) 3 (Knowles, Parsons, Haverson pen.)
ALDRERSHOT (0) 1 (Longhorn) 5,382
 Wimbledon: Goddard; Bryant (Denny), Haverson, Briley, Galvin, Perkins, Lesjic, Galliers, Knowles, Cork, Parsons.
 Aldershot: Johnson; Howitt, Edwards (Hooper), Dixon, Youlden, Jopling, Crosby, Longhorn, Needham, Dungworth, McGregor.

YORK (2) 2 (Taylor, McDonald o.g.)
ROCHDALE (0) 1 (Owen) 2,295
 York: Neenan; Kay, Walsh, Pugh, Faulkner, Clements, Ford, Randall (Stronach), Loggie, McDonald, Stanforth.
 Rochdale: Penfalgate; Hart, Snookes, Scaife, Taylor, Creamer, Hoy, Esser, Jones O'Loughlin, Owen.
 Postponed: Hartlepool v Northampton; Newport v Boumemouth.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

ST. MIRREN (1) 1 (Stark)
RANGERS (1) 2 (Urquhart 2) 5,000
 St. Mirren: Thomson; Young, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Dunlop, Copland, Richardson, Stark, Bone, Abercrombie, McGarvey.
 Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Dawson, Johnstone, Jackson, MacDonald, McLean, Russell, Urquhart, Smith, Cooper (Parlane).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

FIRST DIVISION

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 (Evans)
COVENTRY (0) 1 (Thompson) 25,670
 Villa: Rimmer; Linton, Williams, Gregory, Evans, Mortimer, Craig, Little, Gray, Cowans, Swain.
 Coventry: Sealey; Roberts, McDonald, Yorath, Holton, Coop, Nardiello, Wallace, Thompson, Powell, Hutchison.

NOTTM FOREST (1) 6 (O'Neill 3, Woodcock 2, Birtles)
CHELSEA (0) 0 24,514
 Nottm. F.: Shilton; Anderson, Bowyer, McGovern, Lloyd, Needham, O'Neill, Francis, Birtles, Woodcock, Robertson.
 Chelsea: Borota; Wilkins (G) (Stanley), Stride, Bannon, Sifton, Nutton, Harris, Wilkins (R), Aylott, Langley, Britton.

TOTTENHAM 0
SOUTHAMPTON 0 23,570
 Tottenham: Kendall; Naylor, McAllister, Holmes, Lacy, Perryman, Pratt, Ardiles, Jones, Hoddle, Villa.
 Southampton: Wells; Golac, Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, George (Hayes), Holmes, Baker.

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Fazackerley pen.)
CAMBRIDGE (0) 0 6,448
 Blackburn: Ramsbottom; Rathbone, Bailey, Coughlin, Parkin, Fazackerley, Brotherton, Fowler, Craig, Perkes, McKenzie.

Cambridge: Webster; Graham, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, Buckley (Streets), Christie, Spriggs, Murray, Finney, Biley.

LEICESTER (2) 3 (May, Smith, Williams)
LUTON (0) 0 10,465
 Leicester: Wallington; Goodwin, Rofe, O'Neill, May, Kelly, Peake, Williams, Henderson, Buchanan (Ridley), Smith.
 Luton: Findlay; Stephens, Price, Donaghy, Turner, Birchenall, Hill, West, Taylor, Hatton, Stein.

NEWCASTLE 1
WREXHAM 1 abandoned at half-time

THIRD DIVISION

CHESTER (2) 3 (Jones, Livermore, Phillips)
CHESTERFIELD (0) 0 1,804
 Chester: Lloyd; Nickass, Walker, Storton, Jeffries, Oakes, Jones, Livermore, Edwards, Phillips, Henderson.
 Chesterfield: Letheran; Tarrt (Simpson), Burton, Hunter, Pollard, O'Neill, Kowalski, Moss, Fern, Salmons, Walker.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

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James Lawton investigates the strange twists of fate that overtake F.A. Cup Final heroes.

The doors of The Hawthorns are opened for a critical examination of W.B.A.

Liverpool manager Bob Paisley tells how he has achieved his remarkable level of success.

Everton's England winger Dave Thomas reveals his ultimate ambition — to become a soccer groundsman.

Ipswich Town's two gifted Dutchmen compare English League football with the game in Holland.

John Richards talks about the battle to save his career and his equally tough struggle to save Wolves from the drop.

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And more, much more, in colour and black and white action with the news and views of the top people in soccer.

GET SOCCER MONTHLY

NOBBY

SOME PLAYERS GET SO UPSET WHEN THEY'RE CHOSEN OUT OF POSITION



UP-FRONT, MIDFIELD, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?



I DON'T MIND WHERE THEY PLAY ME!



WANT A BET ON THAT... YOU'RE IN THE RESERVES ON SATURDAY!



The American Treatment is helping IAN EVANS back to fitness

BACK in October, 1977, Ian Evans, Crystal Palace's Welsh international skipper, suffered a double-fracture of the right leg in a tackle with George Best during the Palace-Fulham London "derby" at Selhurst Park.

Since that grim afternoon, the tall, 26-year-old defender, who had been such an inspiring bulwark for club and country, became soccer's forgotten star.

Throughout his long, often lonely, struggle for fitness, and beset by the threat of early retirement, Ian has never loosened his grip on the lifeline of a successful comeback.

"It was this desire, obsession perhaps, to get back into action quickly that set me back," says Evans.

"I was too impatient, and attempted to do too much, with the result the leg had to be re-set, and the recovery treatment started all over again."

At the RAF rehabilitation unit near Epsom he did floor exercises to the beat of John Travolta music,

travelled miles on the static bike, and spent a lot of time trying to step-up his jogging rate.

But there was no relief from the persistent pain, and once again Ian returned to a hospital bed, his leg encased in plaster.

Evans has had two operations, one of them a bone graft from his hip into the leg, but the healing process had been slow, its ultimate success uncertain, until London Hospital consultant, Mr John King, brought a gleam of hope to the man who has been such an inspiration to Crystal Palace and Wales, when he tried a new American treatment on the injury.

Tiny electrodes were fitted around the fracture, giving a continuous flow of electric shocks to the damaged area. Then, for the next three months, complete rest. No weight or pressure to be put on the leg at all.

At the end of the waiting period, Ian returned to the London Hospital for the removal of the electrodes, but he had to wait until the following morning to find out



whether the treatment had been a hit or a miss, when a phone call from the consultant gave him the most bracing tonic he'd had since he started out on the bleak, punishing road to full recovery.

"For the three months I'd been having this new American technique," recalls Ian. "No X-rays had been taken because he was unable to see what he wanted through the plaster, and he needed a special X-ray machine."

"In any previous treatment I'd had, its success had never been certain, so it was a real breakthrough for me when Mr King reported that, for the first time,

they couldn't even see the fracture any more on the X-ray machine.

"After a month in walking plaster, and a lot of walking, I'm looking forward to starting rehabilitation exercises again and maintaining the progress that has been made."

"I feel a lot more optimistic now. There were times during all the disappointments when I thought I'd never play again, and there were times when I was so keen to get back I set myself impossible targets."

"I'm very happy about the way things are going now, and this American treatment has proved to be a tremendous step forward."

When Ian was stretchered off Selhurst Park over 18 months ago, he was steering Palace to a promotion run destined to hoist them into the Second Division, and eagerly waiting to line-up for Wales in the vital World Cup qualifier against Scotland, at Anfield.

This season, as Terry Venables and his young shock troops drive towards the First Division, and youngsters like Ken Sansom, Billy Gilbert, Peter Nicholas, and the silky Vince Hilaire capture the headlines, Evans pushes to the back of his mind the possibility that complete recovery would not automatically guarantee a first team return.

But, right now, all he wants is a quick and successful return to the action, and to be once again fully involved in the glittering future that lies within the grasp of Terry Venables and his buzzing young men at the Palace.

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LEEDS Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
WALES Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
SAUDI ARABIA	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
SHEFFIELD Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	
LEICESTER Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	
LEICESTER Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	
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Sunderland's problem-attracting top talent

MANY years have passed since Sunderland were known as "the team of all the talents" in an area where football is a religion.

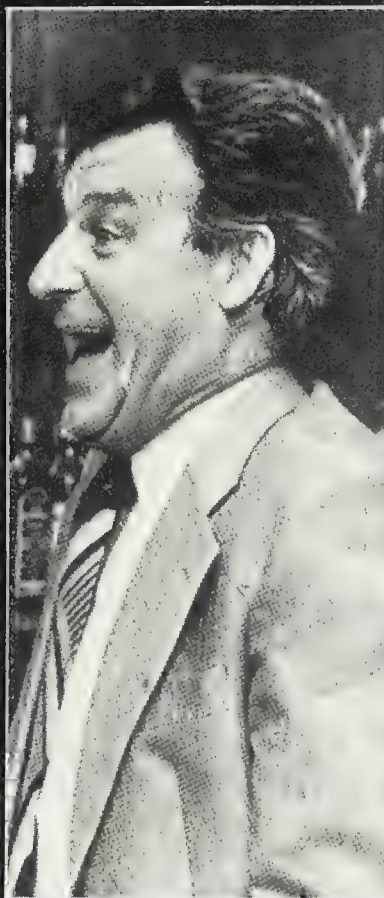
The Roker fan of 1979, still as fervent as his predecessors, who cheered on Sunderland's First Division Championship-winning team of 1892-3, has had many tests made of his loyalty in recent seasons, but in spite of set backs, he still considers he has more to

over at Leeds, Billy Elliott was appointed caretaker boss at Roker until the end of 1978-9 season.

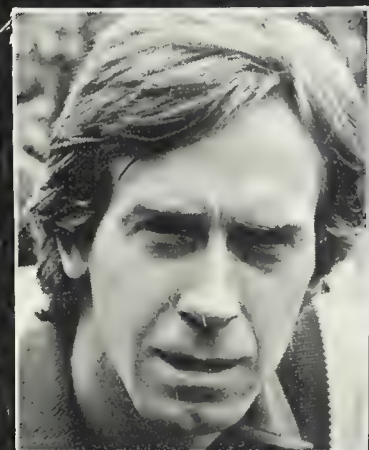
And almost immediately, Elliott was faced with problems — he realised the club badly needed a couple of quality players, but soon discovered that although Sunderland possessed a magnificent ground and loyal supporters, the North-East was not an area guaranteed to attract players from other clubs.

This was starkly clear to manager Elliott when he was trying feverishly to sign new talent on the eve of the transfer deadline. He snapped-up Steve Whitworth from Leicester City to boost his defence, but failed to entice either Brian Kidd or Peter Eastoe to Sunderland. Both Kidd and Eastoe preferred to go to Everton, and at the end of an unsuccessful search for players, Elliott was forced to admit: "The directors have given me full backing — we have done our best to find a player who we rate and genuinely wanted to turn out for Sunderland."

All this was in direct contrast to the Sunderland Elliott knew as a



ABOVE . . . Manager at Roker Park, Billy Elliott.
RIGHT . . . Brian Kidd preferred to go to Everton rather than Sunderland.



shout about than the supporters of Newcastle United nearby.

The reason is obvious. As the clubs prepared for their run-in to the end of this season, Sunderland were in the top three of the Second Division, with Newcastle resting in mid-table. Whatever was to happen in the remaining games, the Wearsiders knew they had done considerably better than their great rivals at St. James' Park.

At the same time Sunderland's realistic fans realised that the Roker team's results were often more impressive than their performances. For example, after two successive home victories late in March over Orient and Luton Town, the verdict on Wearsiders was Sunderland were more laborious than lethal.

And not surprisingly, in spite of the valuable promotion points gathered by the Wearsiders, the Roker supporters in March were torn with doubts about the ability of their side to reach Division One.

Following a depressing period encompassing a change of managers and some disappointing performances by Sunderland, their fans were disenchanted at the image the club was presenting to the rest of the soccer world. After manager Jimmy Adamson left the North-East in December to take

LEFT . . . New signing from Leicester, Steve Whitworth.

BELOW . . . Former Roker Park favourite the "Clown Prince" himself, Len Shackleton.



player, when the Wearsiders were known as the Bank of England club, and attracted such personalities to Roker as the gifted Len Shackleton and dynamic Welshman Trevor Ford.

"Shack" was dubbed the "clown prince" at Roker. It was nothing for him to sit on the ball.

But Elliott sees hope ahead for Sunderland — and a future in the First Division. His team has fought to a position among the top clubs in Division Two, with some fine displays from Barry Siddall, Joe Bolton, Shaun Elliott, Bob Lee, Mike Docherty, and the ace goal-scorer Gary Rowell.

Sunderland are a young side, one which has shown a great will-



ingness to adjust to the rugged demands of Second Division football. And when the club does achieve its ambition of promotion to the top flight, it will face another struggle to adapt to the superior technique of the First Division.

Yet none of this daunts Billy Elliott who says: "We look forward to the chance to show there is ability, character and determination in the team. We'll have to apply these qualities to the full because the immediate future could well be the most important time in the history of Sunderland Football Club."

"There is a lot of satisfaction to be gained by accomplishing a mission when it has been a long slog. We've had reverses, but sometimes these are needed as reminders that victories must be earned — and we aim to earn ours fully."



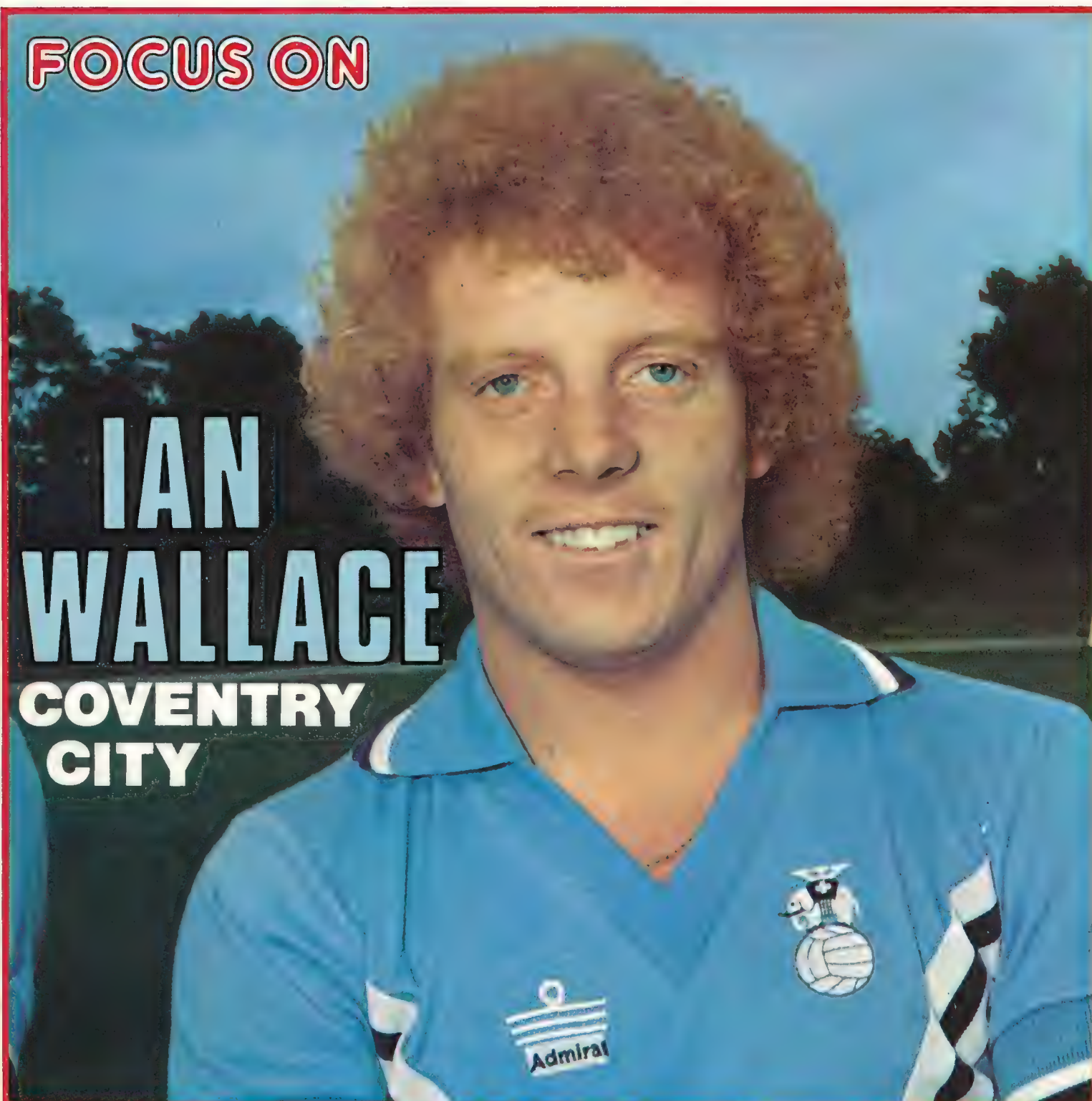
Sheffield United's Paul Garner (left) and Mark Lawrenson of Brighton chase a loose ball.

SHOOT!

FOCUS ON

IAN WALLACE

COVENTRY CITY



FULL NAME: Ian Andrew Wallace
BIRTHPLACE: Glasgow
BIRTHDATE: 23rd May, 1956
HEIGHT: 5ft. 8ins.
WEIGHT: 11st.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Yoker Athletic Juniors and Dumbarton
MARRIED: To Carol
CHILDREN: None yet, but I've an Old English Sheepdog called Bonnie
CAR: Ford Capri
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Arsenal's Liam Brady
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Liverpool
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Norman Hunter of Bristol City
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Scotland v. Bulgaria, February, 1978, friendly
BIGGEST THRILL: Scoring the winning

goal in my international debut in the above game
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not being picked for the World Cup squad in Argentina
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: France
FAVOURITE FOOD: King prawn and fried rice
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Most sports
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Injuries
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Porridge and Top of the Pops
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Rod Stewart and Paul Nicholas
FAVOURITE ACTORS/ACTRESS: John Wayne, Barbra Streisand and Charles Bronson
BEST FRIEND: Barry Powell my team-mate

BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Bad referees
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Junior, Under-21 and one full cap
PERSONAL AMBITION: To win more honours in football
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: As above
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? A soldier
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Pop Star Rod Stewart

Ian Wallace

SHOOT!

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF MARK MCGHEE



THE soccer career of Aberdeen's recent £65,000 signing from Newcastle, has had more ups and downs than an overworked elevator.

McGhee, only 24, must feel like a champion surfer who can do no wrong one day and little right the next.

"I wanted to be a success with Newcastle," says McGhee, "but I don't think I really got the opportunity to show my best form at St. James' Park.

"For a start I was played out of position and that didn't help my game. With Morton I was allowed to drift around the wings and I scored a lot of my goals from this position, cutting in from the touch-line and having a go.

"Newcastle must have been impressed because they paid out £150,000 for me ... and then changed my game!

"They wanted me to play as a sort of target man and that role really doesn't suit me."

The talented McGhee must have been feeling low because this was his second attempt to parade his skills in front of English audiences.

Declined

The player was a brilliant prospect as a schoolboy and several Scottish clubs wanted him to sign, but he declined their offers and headed for Ashton Gate, home of Bristol City.

Things, however, didn't work out. He says: "Quite simply, I got homesick. Oh, I know I was hardly a million miles away, but still I wanted to get home.

"Bristol City, thankfully, understood the situation and gave me a free transfer and I was back in Scotland as swiftly as I could make it."

McGhee might have been a bit disappointed at failing to make it big with Bristol City, but that dejection changed to delight with the news that Celtic were taking an interest.

He played several trials for the club and the then manager Jock Stein is reported to have been impressed. Then things went wrong again for McGhee.

Scotland supremo Stein was

involved in his unfortunate car accident four years ago and it took him a season to recover. With Stein out of action McGhee's name slipped out of Celtic's attention.

The call-up to Parkhead never arrived and McGhee drifted into junior football. Morton, though, were quick to spot his immense potential and manager Benny Rooney, never afraid to give youth its chance, brought McGhee into his first team.

He formed a devastating partnership with Andy Ritchie as Morton demoralised oppositions with monotonous regularity on their way to the First Division title.

McGhee didn't finish the season with a title-winning team ... he ended up with a side being relegated.

Newcastle, hurtling at a phenomenal pace into the Second Division, tried to halt the nose dive by spending £150,000 on McGhee and £100,000 on Clydebank striker Mike Larnach. The gamble didn't pay off and, ironically, Larnach is also back in Scotland after joining Motherwell earlier in the season for £60,000.

So, McGhee was down again. Fortunately, it seems, not for long. He signed for Aberdeen just before the League Cup Final and would have certainly made history if he had been given a substitute's role and The Dons had won the trophy. He would have been the only player in the game to have picked up a winner's medal without even playing one minute's football in the tournament.

As it turns out, McGhee wasn't risked and Rangers went out to win the Cup with a last-minute goal from Colin Jackson. "It was so close that day," says McGhee. "I felt the disappointment just like every other Aberdeen player. They fought so hard they really deserved something better at the end of the day.

"Anyway, I'm delighted to be at Pittodrie. My former boss at Morton, Benny Rooney, thinks a lot of Dons manager Alex Ferguson and after only a couple of weeks in his company I can understand why.

"Aberdeen are going places and I don't want anything to interrupt my progress this time ..."



YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

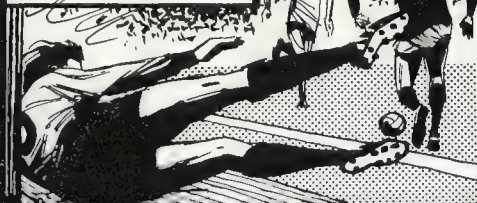
1

A white line has been added to the goal-line to mark the centre of the goal. Is this allowed?



2

A player runs over the goal-line and crashes into the wall that surrounds the pitch. Should you stop play whilst he receives treatment?



3

Should you allow the captain who wins the toss to choose to kick-off instead of selecting a half to defend (a) yes or (b) no?



4

From a corner-kick the ball strikes you and is deflected over the goal-line, should you award (a) another corner, (b) have the kick retaken, (c) a goal-kick or (d) a drop-ball at the place where it struck you?



5

A defender trips an opponent inside the penalty arc. Should you award (a) a penalty or (b) a direct free-kick?



ANSWERS

1. No. I have found in some matches abroad that this line is put in by the groundsmen. Luckily I have seen this when inspecting the ground on the morning of the match and immediately told the groundsmen to remove it. 2. No, although I believe the referee should at least call the trainer to the injured player. 3. Yes (a), although it is very unusual for this to occur. 4. A goal-kick (c). 5. A direct free-kick (b).

**DANNY
McGRAIN**



'The big man has been a sensation since leaving Parkhead'

IT'S player of the year time again throughout the land when the sportswriters and players alike salute the men they think have done most for the game in 1978-79.

The Scottish Players Union selected Dundee United's Paul Hegarty as their main man and made it a double for the Tayside club when they went for full-back Raymond Stewart in the young player department.

And I want to say that I couldn't agree more with the selection of Hegarty who has been quite magnificent in the Taysiders' best-ever season in recent years.

He was transferred to United from Hamilton as a striker and it took shrewd boss Jim McLean to see the potential that was within the man to become a top notch centre-half.

He has combined magnificently with sweeper Davie Narey — the international player wanted earlier in the season by Tommy Docherty — to give the Tannadice men a defence which is tough enough to make them look — as I write — favourites for the Championship.

Good luck to Ray Stewart, their defender who won the young player award, although my choice would have been Rangers midfielder man Bobby Russell.

Russell has proved himself at both home and in Europe to be a player of outstanding ability and he wears it so well for someone of his tender years.

And what of the Scottish Football Writers' Association award . . . the original player of the year trophy which I was so honoured to win a couple of years back.

What a Scottish football roll of honour that list of winners is since Billy McNeill and John Greig started it off in the early Sixties.

Martin Buchan, Pat Stanton, Derek Johnstone, Sandy Jardine, George Connolly, Gordon Wallace . . . a selection of names from the past winners.

By the time you read this the name of the latest victor will be known and without that advantage as I write, I suspect strongly that it will not be an Old Firm player.

Paul Hegarty must again be among the favourites, and I know Alan Rough will register many votes, as will Morton's Andy Ritchie (above, right).

And whatever some people may think of big Andy's playing style — described as something between nonchalant and lazy — at least he

has given hope to any player ever released by Rangers or Celtic.

The big man has been a sensation since he left Parkhead.

And talking of players who have left Parkhead, what of the revolving door life of Vic Davidson?

Eyebrows were raised when Celtic manager Billy McNeill splashed out £30,000 to buy him from Blackpool, remembering that he once was given a free transfer from Parkhead.

But the move was justified. When Vic left Celts it was because the first team was so good there was just no place for him, and the free transfer was no reflection on his talent but instead a favour to the boy and a typical friendly Celtic gesture.

His experience with Motherwell and Blackpool has made him a much better player, more professional and mature, and after all he is still only 27.

And on top of all that, remember it is a different manager at Parkhead now.

And talk of returns reminds me to wish Celtic masseur Jim Steele many happy ones on his 65th birthday.

Jim is one of the most popular figures at Parkhead and the players chipped in to present him with a silver tray to commemorate his coming of age.

And another figure who in his own special way came of age in April was former Scotland manager Ally MacLeod who weathered the storm at Motherwell and finally justified his youth policy decision on April 14.

It really was the light at the end of the tunnel of gloom for him when his youngsters defeated Rangers 2-0 at Fir Park, and although they were already destined to go down, what a boost it must have been for their First Division future.

Faith

I hear one Glasgow bookmaker is already offering odds of only 7-1 against 'Well winning next year's First Division Championship . . . so at least someone has faith in 'Well.

Ally likes to take a gamble himself and they don't always work . . . but I think this time it will.

Finally as it comes nearer British Championship time — more about that in two weeks — I am trying desperately to convince Jock Stein that I am ready for a recall to the Scotland squad.

There is only one way to achieve that of course — out on the park — and I must admit I could have played better when my old boss came to see me in action for Celts.

The competition will be tough for a full-back position with Sandy Jardine and Frankie Gray playing so well, but I have run out of fingers and toes to cross.

Come to think of it, maybe I would be playing better if I did uncross them anyway!

See you in two weeks . . .

**NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN
TALK BY RANGERS'
DEREK JOHNSTONE**

SOCCER management is a two-man job these days, especially at a top club.

Nottingham Forest have Clough and Taylor . . . there are Neill and Howe at Arsenal . . . Book and Allison at Manchester City . . . Durban and Kendall at Stoke . . . Venables and Harris at Crystal Palace; and of course, Tommy Docherty and Frank Blunstone at Derby County.

Football is such big business it's unfair to expect the full burden of running a leading club to remain on the shoulders of one man.

For many years now, Continental practice is to have a two-man team at the top — a manager, to handle all the commercial affairs of the club, aided by a coach responsible solely for the players and team.

The manager doesn't have to worry about transfers, dealing with the Press, arranging contracts or anything connected with the day-to-day matters at the club.

I believe we are gradually coming around to this system in the Football League.

The days of the soccer manager as we know him in Britain could well be numbered.

In many large companies the accountants already rule. This will happen in soccer soon. It's inevitable as more and more of our leading clubs realise there's a great deal of money to be made from sponsorship and "selling" themselves in all manner of ways.

Look at the recent TV deal. I believe it started out at a £4 million contract spread over four or five years.

The clubs for once refused to be

'ARE SOCCER MANAGERS ON THEIR WAY OUT?'



my soccer scene
GORDON HILL

exploited again and demanded £10 million over two years.

Great business which will obviously benefit all clubs in the Football League. That wouldn't have happened a few years ago.

Directors would have grabbed at any pittance the TV companies had seen fit to throw their way.

Football is waking up to the fact it's in the entertainment business. Entertainment with a capital "E", run on show business lines.

Experienced businessmen, with commercial expertise and ideas to promote outside interests and boost finances, are beginning to influence the game.

Will they become the new breed of soccer manager? Will the Tommy Dochertys and Brian Cloughs be pushed into the background as clubs strive to become businesses rather than football clubs? I doubt it.

But I do think commercial managers help ease the burden on the traditional jack-of-all-trades soccer bosses we know so well in Britain.

I certainly can't see myself as a manager when I retire. I wouldn't mind coaching, though, or taking a business studies course and becoming a public relations officer or commercial manager at a club.

I'd introduce a few American

ideas into our football, to sell the game more to the fans.

This is one area lacking in Britain at the moment. I'm appalled at the number of clubs still living in the dark ages . . . reluctant to change . . . and co-operate with the media.

Fortunately, Derby County aren't one of those clubs. In fact, I'd say



Pre-season Derby line-up with some of their back room boys. Frank Blunstone (standing left) physio Gordon Guthrie (next to him), reserve coach Ritchie Norman (standing right) and manager Tommy Docherty

With their thoughts on Wembley Arsenal's physio Fred Street (left), coach Don Howe (centre) and manager Terry Neill



we are one of the most progressive in the country.

We have an excellent backroom staff at the Baseball Ground, all pulling together like one big happy family to project the club on and off the field.

County also try to ensure the fans are made to feel an important part of the whole set-up.

To keep them well informed as to Derby's activities and happenings behind the scenes, the club publish *The Ram* — a newspaper/programme edited by Harry Brown and sold in newsagents the day before matches and at the ground.

It's an excellent publication... I wouldn't miss an issue. The *Ram* has often revealed a piece of news or fact I hadn't known before.

But who are the "team" behind the team at Derby?

Apart from the directors, of course, there's manager Tommy Docherty, general-secretary Stuart Webb, assistant-manager Frank Blunstone, reserve-coach Ritchie Norman, junior-coach Ron Webster, trainer/physiotherapist Gordon Guthrie, chief-scout Gordon Clayton, assistant-secretary Michael Dunford, commercial manager Stuart Robinson, office-manager Tom Eley, admin. assistant Roger Tradwell, groundsman Bob Smith, sponsorship manager Colin Doughty, Midland lottery manager Joe Kelly... and not forgetting the girls in reception, ladies in the tearoom and laundry-room whose efforts ensure Derby County are one of the "cleanest" and smartest teams in the League.

Mind you, Derby are not unique. Several of our leading First Division clubs have similar staffs, even larger in some cases. But I still reckon we

have much to learn from sources outside the game.

Among the most important people backstage are the physiotherapists, and as you know we have one of the best menders of men in the business at Derby, Gordon Guthrie.

I've seen too much of him this season, thanks to twisted knee ligaments, and a cartilage operation. Then I aggravated the injured knee making my comeback as a substitute against Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road on March 31st... a week earlier than planned.

At the moment I've practically no chance of making the side for Saturday's (May 5th) last match of the season at home to Middlesbrough.

Rams lost 3-1 at Boro earlier in the season. Let's hope we can reverse that result and end the campaign on a happy note.

There's no denying it hasn't been a good season for Derby County. But there have been some good moments and I'll look back on those in my next column.

Before closing just a mention of the F.A. Cup Final on Saturday week.

This is a tough one for me to forecast because being a Londoner I'd like Arsenal to win... and as an ex-United player I wish them well.

But as I've still got a few mates at Old Trafford and the fans were so good to me I'll plump for United.

All the best and take care...

Gordon Guthrie

GOAL~LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. £3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Mary Ebert of Bickley in Kent, who wins our Special Prize of £3. She writes:

BOTH SIDES OF GREAVES

I WAS shocked and dismayed to read your article on Jimmy Greaves (April 14th) because it pushed aside his frank confessions about his personal life. SHOOT assumed that "we will not want to dwell on such morbid reading."

Surely a responsible magazine like SHOOT does not want to paint life at the top as a happy, magical landscape?

Many of your teenage readers must be associated schoolboys or apprentices and I think they would benefit from Greaves' honesty in admitting he was an alcoholic. I wish your article and review of Jimmy's book had not brushed aside his problem as it has been an important factor in his life.

Personally, I congratulate Jimmy not just for his honesty, but for overcoming his drink problem.

● Jimmy's alcoholism had received a lot of publicity in the national Press, while the papers hardly mentioned his goalscoring achievements. SHOOT decided to put the emphasis on his 'ON-field activities, but there was no intention to whitewash his troubles.

International Goal

A PARAGRAPH of truly international flavour appeared in my local paper recently: "As half-time approached Ipswich, increasingly confident, took the lead with a fierce drive by Mühren after Taranini had headed out a cross from Brazil."

COLIN CAMERON, CROYDON.

● Holland, Argentina and... well... almost Brazil! Not bad for one paragraph!

Pitch

NOTTINGHAM Forest have spent £1 million on Trevor Francis; they plan to spend even more on a new stand. Isn't it about time they spent some money on their pitch?

MICHAEL BAYLISS, VIEWSLEY.

● After seeing the state of it for the European Cup-tie against Cologne — yes.

Readers Slam McGrain

THE recent article by self-confessed England critic Danny McGrain brought dozens of letters from readers, angry about his remarks. The Celtic star once again praised Scotland fans and, as usual, had a dig at supporters in England. Here is a representative selection of replies...

I HATE soccer violence and was horrified to read that Danny McGrain thought Scotland fans were the best in the world. I wonder if he would allow thousands of these supporters to rip up his back garden and pull his house down. If you can play Spot The Englishman at Wembley, it's no wonder the way the "world's best fans" behave when they come down.

STUART BINKS, APLEY BRIDGE.

DANNY would rather die than praise England. He must have forgotten the chants of "what a load of rubbish" and "MacLeod must go" by the Scotland fans in Argentina.

MICHAEL WINNERTON, NUNEATON.

SCOTTISH fans have been a disgrace to British football, especially the way they invaded Wembley in 1977. It's about time they acted like human beings rather than wild animals.

JOHN ADAIR, CHIPPENHAM.

AS a true Scot, I was angry and embarrassed at the arrogant nationalistic nonsense that appeared in the Danny McGrain column. If, as he says, Glasgow fans are so loyal, why were there just 36,000 to see a Cup Semi-Final in their own city?

Like McGrain, I'm a Scot who fervently wants to see his country succeed. We never will, however, until we totally reject the boastful spirit which McGrain encourages. We must be capable of intelligent self-criticism; instead of jeering at Manchester City losing in the Quarter-Finals of the U.E.F.A. Cup, we should be asking why no Scottish club reached that stage.

STEWART BROWN, BRAMHALL.

BECAUSE I am basically a kind person, I will carry on with the belief that Scottish fans are really teetotallers, just a little over-enthusiastic and can take defeat as well as their rugby counterparts. I also like to think the best of people, so I'll go on believing McGrain loves England and writes his nonsense just to sell copies.

ANNELLISA JESPERSEN, LOWESTOFT.

Fear

PETER Stewart asked in News Desk why people leave before the end of the games. The main reason is the fear of getting kicked by rival so-called fans. If the mindless element of hooligans could be eliminated then football would again become a sport where a fan could cheer when his team scored and not worry about wearing the club's scarf.

DANIEL TASKER, KIRKHAM.

● Hooliganism probably won't ever be totally eliminated, but I have noticed a sharp decrease this season.

THE DEFENDER WHO

CELTIC have blazed a path of Soccer glory since their birth in 1888. They have played all over the world and have always attempted to play entertaining football.

They have a reputation for attack, a formation that prefers to please the fans rather than adopt negative spoiling tactics.

When it comes to choosing a Celtic line-up from the list of legendary players who have adorned the green-and-white shirt over the years it is not an easy task. They have paraded personalities and have encouraged players to be stylish and to be spectacular.

John Thompson, whose life was tragically curtailed after an accident in an Old Firm game, was a prince of goalkeepers whereas Jimmy Quinn and Jimmy McGrory were centre-forwards of the old school who could take defences apart and drive defenders to thoughts of early retirement with their marvellous opportunism and powerful, non-stop running.

The list is almost endless, a green and white rainbow bursting over an often all too drab soccer scene. Selecting just 11 players from the skyscraper amount of talent is a Herculean task. Narrowing it down to players who have displayed glittering skills since the last War helps a little, but it's still a daunting feat to get it down to just one team when you could have four or five of the highest quality.

The goalkeeping spot has been a bit of a problem for Celtic in recent years as they have searched for consistency from their last line of

defence. But over the season they have produced several international class 'keepers.

Frank Haffey, unfortunately, is remembered today for conceding nine goals to the English attack at Wembley in 1961. A nightmare for the big, blond star, but people seem to conveniently forget that Haffey put in an immaculate 90 minutes the previous year when the Scots drew 1-1 with England at Hampden.

Haffey wasn't always so hapless. He was a personality-plus 'keeper, a crowd puller, safe and sure on all but a few occasions. Dick Beattie, too, was brilliant, acrobatic and sometimes unorthodox.

He played in Celtic's unforgettable 7-1 walloping of Rangers in the League Cup Final in the late Fifties. Present-day 'keeper Peter Latchford can be magnificent when he is on form, but for consistency there is only one man to claim that jersey ... Ronnie Simpson.

Simpson was the father figure of the Celtic side that conquered Europe just over a decade ago. His philosophy was simple: "You are never beaten until that ball crosses the line."

He kept out shots with his elbows, knees and just about every part of his anatomy. In the 1967 Scottish Cup Final against Aberdeen he demonstrated that ability when Scandinavian Jens Petersen hit a first-time shot at goal from only six yards.

It really should have been a goal, but Simpson slid in to kick the ball

off the line. "Lucky", said the Aberdeen fans, but the Celtic supporters knew better. Celtic went on to win 2-0 with Simpson, who made his international debut on the wrong side of 30, keeping another clean sheet.

Jim Craig, who played in that historic European Cup-winning side, was a player who brought culture to the right-back berth. He was a cool, calm player who linked intelligently with his midfield and attack.

Duncan McKay, possessor of the position shortly before Craig, was another intelligent international right-back, but he, too, just fails to make SHOOT'S team.

Danny McGrain wins a place in the line-up despite fierce competition. McGrain is rated at his very best to be the greatest in the world.



Ronnie Simpson

Perhaps he doesn't score superb goals, but McGrain makes more than his fair share of vital scores. He can be devastating bursting down the flank and his crosses are struck with uncanny accuracy.

Teaming up with him at left-back would be the incomparable Tommy Gemmell, another defender who found himself more often being marked by wingers than vice versa!

His thunderous shooting from outside the penalty area struck fear into the hearts of rival goalkeepers. No Celtic fan will ever forget that blistering effort that ripped past the helpless Giacinto Sarti, of Inter Milan, and brought Celtic their equaliser in the 1967 European Cup Final. Stevie Chalmers netted the winner.

Gemmell put the smile back into soccer with his devil-may-care attitude. He was world class, a revolutionary left-back. Perhaps ten years ahead of his time!

Who to shore-up the middle of the defence? Jock Stein has made a name as a manager, but he was also a fine centre-half in his day.

There were no frills about his game. He was uncompromising and safe. He jokes: "I kicked the ball more often with my knee than my feet!"

Scottish International Bobby Evans is another contender for the centre-half position. He was a lynch-pin of the Parkhead defence in the late Forties and Fifties. His

reading of play was immaculate, his ability in the air was almost faultless and his tackling on the ground was packed with power.

However, the player who claims the position is the present Celtic manager Billy McNeill, who, as a youngster, was taught the tricks of his trade by a certain Mr. Stein!

McNeill was a great defensive player in a team of personalities. He stood out by racing into attack to snatch vital goals when Celtic needed them most.

It was fitting McNeill should get the winning goal in the 1965 Scottish Cup Final against Dumfriesline that gave Jock Stein his first honour as Celtic manager only a couple of months after rejoining them from Hibs.

McNeill's timing was immaculate. The game was nearing its climax with the score at 2-2. Charlie Gallagher, a thoughtful midfielder player who had to compete for a place with the redoubtable Bertie Auld, swung over a corner-kick from the left. Dunfermline 'keeper Jim Herriot left his line, but it was a hopeless task as McNeill came hurtling in to get his blond head to the ball and send it flashing into the net.

Who would play alongside McNeill to complete our back-four? John Clark, another Lisbon Lion, immediately springs to mind. His unhurried, tidy manner was the perfect foil for McNeill, but our



Kenny Dalglish

Jimmy Johnstone



TERRIFIED RIVAL 'KEEPERS

wears the number three shirt
in SHOOT'S team of post-War
Celtic greats.

choice for sweeper will probably surprise a lot of fans.

We go for George Connelly, the startlingly talented player who bowed out of football prematurely. He was a back-four player of immense skill. He could have become a mainstay in the international side as Scotland's answer to the one and only former West German star Franz Beckenbauer.

Alas, the pressure got to Connelly and he walked out several times before it became obvious he had no intention of making soccer his chosen profession. It was a real shame to see such a player quit the game before Old Father Time robbed him of his talents. He is still our choice, though.

Moving into the midfield there are many players who immediately spring to mind. Bertie Peacock, a Northern Ireland international, was smooth and shrewd, putting the accent on style and poise.

Scottish international Pat Crendall, too, was a player of great perception who could thread passes through the tightest of defences. But, again, we plump for a "Lisbon Lion" for the right side of our midfield. Bobby Murdoch, now a Middlesbrough back room boy, gets the nod.

Murdoch, who started his career an old fashioned inside-right, could finish moves with shooting that left goalkeepers shaking their heads in sheer disbelief at its awesome power. His long-range passing was a joy to watch.

Playing alongside Murdoch would be Bobby Collins, short on physical stature, but immense in invention. Collins also played for Everton and Leeds United. A marvellously thoughtful player, a man for all seasons.

Completing a trio of midfield talent would be Bertie Auld, the cheeky, cheerful chap who returned to Celtic in '65 as an orthodox outside-left from Birmingham and was converted by Jock Stein to a left-side midfield player.

Auld could swing passes around the pitch as if guided by an unseen hand. His passing was breathtaking in its accuracy. Auld was a player who never received the con-

sistent international recognition he so richly deserved.

The front three? Willie Fernie, a mazy dribbler and outstanding individualist, could waltz his way into most sides unchallenged, but he is going to have to be content with the substitute's berth in our line-up.

That right-wing position goes to the jinking Jimmy Johnstone whose mesmerising ball control tormented, teased and finally tortured the best defences in the world.

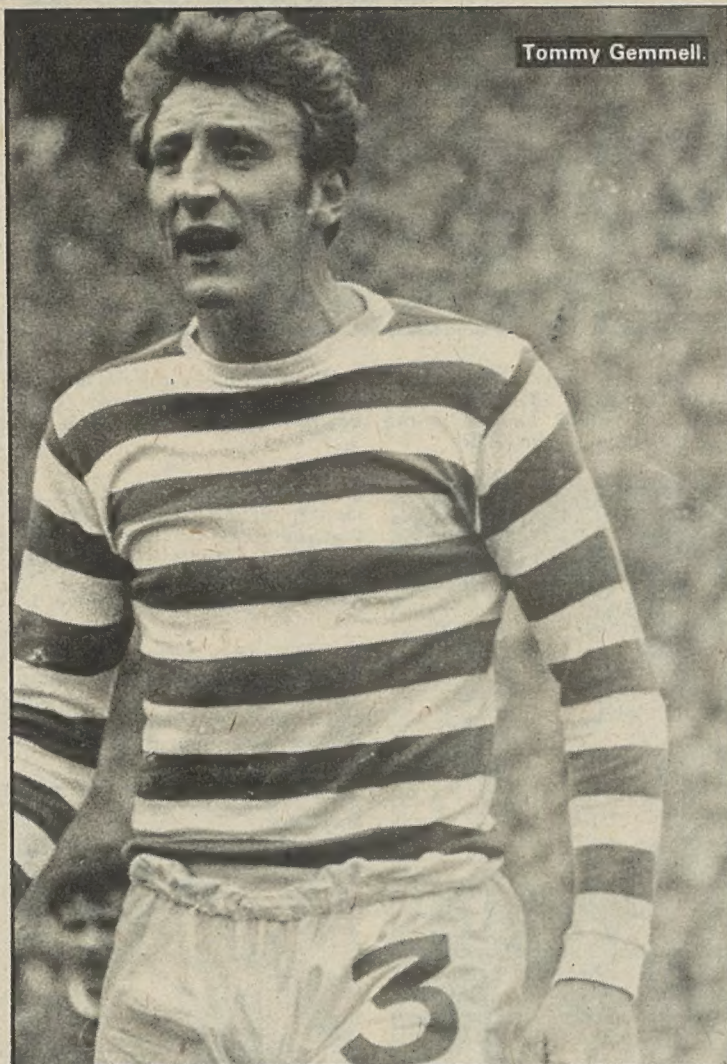
Johnstone never fancied air-plane trips after a particularly upsetting experience while travelling back from the United States in 1966 to get married. He always let it be known he would prefer to go by road and sea to any international venue and the crafty Stein once put his fear to Celtic's advantage.

Before a European Cup-tie against the solid Red Star Belgrade at Parkhead ten years ago he told Johnstone he would leave him at home if Celtic took a three goal lead in the first-leg.

Stein left it to Johnstone after



Billy McNeill



Tommy Gemmell

that. It was 1-1 at half-time when Stein reminded Johnstone of the promise. Poor Red Star didn't know what hit them in the second-half!

Johnstone sand-danced his way through a memorable performance, scored two wonderful goals and inspired the team to a 5-1 victory. Only a player of the rare quality of Johnstone could have done that.

John McPhaill was a striker of courage and skill. He won his way into the international side to combine with the legendary Billy Steel. One of the highlights of that deadly double-act must have been a match against Northern Ireland in 1951 that brought McPhaill two goals and Steel four in a 6-1 run-away victory.

McPhaill's unfortunate timing meant he was around in the same era as Hibs' Lawrie Reilly and his international appearances were curtailed as a consequence.

Again McPhaill would probably walk into most line ups, but he is left out this time. The player who could do that has got to be that bit special ... and we don't think anyone would argue that Kenny Dalglish fits the bill.

Dalglish, adaptable, versatile, unselfish and endowed with supreme skills, could play in the middle in a roving role. The Liverpool striker would probably get goals

even if you gave him the goalkeeper's jersey!

Liverpool fans are now applauding the magic of Dalglish and their gain is Celtic supporters' definite loss. Dalglish, though, will always have a special corner in the hearts of those Parkhead fans.

So, too, will Charlie Tully, the Northern Ireland international star, but with Johnstone in our line-up we don't really have room for another individualist.

One man who would give the team width and leave Dalglish with the opportunity and space to weave his tapestry of brilliance would be Neil Mochan, at present a coach with Celtic.

Mochan gets into our team just in front of John Hughes, who could be so unpredictable at times. Neilly was known as 'Smiler' because of the way his face lit up whenever one of his shots hit the back of the net. He smiled often!

His shooting is now a legend among Celtic fans. They still talk of a goal he hit against Hibs when just five yards inside his own half!

So, here is SHOOT'S line-up: Simpson; McGrain, McNeill, Connelly, Gemmell; Murdoch, Collins; Auld; Johnstone, Dalglish and Mochan. Sub: Fernie.

We can't think of many current sides that would live with this team. If only they had been born of the same era ...

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S Quiz Time

1. Southampton's Alan Ball (below) recently played his 500th, 600th or 700th League game against Spurs at The Dell?



2. Chelsea became the first club relegated from the First Division this season when they lost 3-2, 4-2 or 5-2 to Arsenal at Highbury?

3. Mark Lawrenson (right), Brian Horton or Andy Rollings suffered a broken arm playing for Brighton against Bristol Rovers at Easter?

4. Which club became the first this season to score three goals against Liverpool when they won 3-1?

5. On Monday, April 16th, the following players scored penalties. Can you name the clubs they were on the spot for? (a) Derek Fazackerley, (b) John Fleming, (c) Roy Carter and (d) Howard Goddard.

6. Non-League player Peter Sharatt has been attracting a lot of attention from Football League clubs recently. Does he play for Harrow, Harlow or Horsham?



7. Which First Division manager was recently quoted in a newspaper as saying: "This was one of the most humiliating experiences I have had as a manager. I have never been so angry over a performance. We touched rock bottom"?

8. Former European Footballer of the Year Allan Simonsen will be leaving Borussia Monchengladbach and joining which Spanish club next season?

9. Since the transfer deadline, Dave Syrett has been scoring for which Third Division club?

10. Can you name the Spurs youngster who stepped in for a suspended John Lacy and did well for the White Hart Lane club?

11. Crystal Palace beat Charlton Athletic 1-0 at Selhurst Park on the Tuesday after Easter to enhance their promotion chances. Their goal was scored by Jerry Murphy. Was it his third, fourth or fifth League goal of the season?

12. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of a top Football League goalkeeper ... HIPL KPSAER (SWTE MHA).

13. West Brom had a disastrous Easter when they only picked up one, two or three points from their three games?

14. Why were Nottingham Forest fined £250 by the Football Association recently?

15. Wolves defender George Berry (left) was included in which country's squad for a recent European Championship game?

ANSWERS:

1. 600th 2. 5-2 3. Lawrenson 4. Aston Villa 5. (a) Blackburn Rovers (b) Lincoln City (c) Swindon Town (d) Newport County 6. Harrow 7. Manchester City's Tony Book 8. Barcelona 9. Walsall 10. Paul Miller 11. Fifth 12. Phil Parkes (West Ham) 13. Two 14. Forest played Trevor Francis in an A team game before he was registered 15. Wales

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (1) Hull. (4) Rioch. (8) Asa. (9) Skit. (11) He. (12) Mend. (14) In. (15) Rib. (16) Goals. (17) Alb. (18) Dean. (19) Meddle. (20) Pa. (21) No. (22) Hartford. (25) Barn. (26) Axed. (27) Owe. (29) As. (30) Scored. (31) Kilt. (32) Key.
DOWN:— (1) Hampden Park. (2) Use. (3) Langan. (4) Rinse. (5) It. (6) Chill. (7) Hebberd. (10) Kilmarnock. (13) Don. (15) Radio. (20) Par. (22) Had. (23) Fiery. (24) Ready. (25) Bell. (28) Woe.

Jumbled Name: BOB LATCHFORD

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Scotland (H) & (A)	£8.10	£8.90	£10.45

*H = Home; A = Away

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BOTH ON THE MANCHESTER CITY TRANSFER LIST. BRIAN KIDD WENT—MIKE CHANNON STAYED, WHY?

'It was a question of pride' — KIDD

BRIAN Kidd's proudest boast is he is the only Manchester-born and bred professional footballer to have played for both City and United at all levels of the game, Europe included.

Now he has something new to shout about following a £150,000 surprise transfer deadline move down the Mersey to Everton.

"Few players enjoy the distinction of having been on the staff of four of the country's leading clubs as I have," says Kidd, adding: "And I've never played outside of the First Division."

In fact next season will see Kidd as the only survivor of Manchester United's European Cup winning side of 1968 to be playing regularly in the top flight.

He scored one of United's goals in their 4-1 Wembley victory over Benfica when they became the first English club to land the Blue Riband of European club soccer and on his 19th birthday at that!

Says Kidd, a £100,000 signing from Arsenal almost three years ago: "I thought I would be finishing my career in the place where it all started as a raw apprentice — Manchester."

"But suddenly it became clear City were ready to release me. Never at any time did I ask to leave City. What happened was an accumulation of things that were sparked off shortly after our U.E.F.A. Cup defeat against Borussia Monchengladbach in Germany, a game for which I was relegated to substitute."

'Agreeable'

"Tony Book, the City manager, told me Sheffield United had made an offer to which he had been agreeable. My reaction at the time was I'm not interested."

He added: "Book told me if any further clubs enquired, he would let me know. I spent a weekend considering the implications of what he had said and came to the conclusion that while you might fool other people, you can never kid yourself."

"It seemed, there and then, that if City were admitting they were willing to consider offers for me, then they were obviously only too willing to sell me."

"It was a question of pride. I went straight back to Tony Book to tell him if Sheffield United were still interested, I would be willing to talk to Harry Haslam, their manager."

"I did. Then the whole thing snowballed from there. Sunderland, Oldham and Stoke all came in for me with the key factor in each case the looming transfer deadline. I said at the time deadlines did not interest me. My future and that of my wife and family came before everything."



"I spoke to Stoke's Alan Durban and Jimmy Frizzell, Oldham manager. Although not to Sunderland, simply because I had made it clear from the outset I did not want to move from my native Manchester. I love the place too much. So does my wife, Margaret."

"But suddenly Everton came in at the death and that was the clincher for me. It left me feeling proud a club of their stature wanted to buy me. At the same time I would be able to finish my career where I had started, in the First Division."

"And here's another ironic twist. In 15 years of top class football I've never worn more than two colours, blue and red!"

"United and Arsenal both wear red, City and Everton blue. So it's a different shade of blue, but who cares."

Kidd's name was constantly linked with Goodison in the past. He reflects: "Probably the reason was because of the link I enjoyed as joint striker with Joe Royle at England youth and the old Under-23 level."

"We seemed to hit it off pretty well, although it was not until I came to Maine Road we finally featured together at club level."

Kidd's career has seen him play alongside a list of some of the game's greatest names in the modern era.

"At Old Trafford I was on cloud seven with such names as Bobby Charlton, Pat Crerand, Denis Law and George Best. What provided the icing on the cake was that I was a locally born kid who made the grade in his home town," says Kidd.

He added: "My move to High-bury came at a stage when The Gunners still had the nucleus of the great Double side in Frank McLintock, Peter Simpson, Bob Wilson, Georgie Armstrong, Charlie George and the rest."

"Then at Maine Road it was a delight to play alongside Asa Hartford, Dave Watson and Big Joe Royle."

"And now Goodison, where my teammates include Bob Latchford, Andy King, Dave Thomas, Mick Lyons and Martin Dobson."

"What more could a player ask for? It's like starting my career all over again."

'We'll be a better side next season' — CHANNON

THE former Southampton and England forward, has never regretted his £300,000 move to Manchester City — even though the Maine Road club has placed him on the transfer list.

Says Mike: "The situation arose where I felt that the club were not making the best use of my talents. I wasn't happy with the way things were going. It was a mutual sort of thing with team boss, Tony Book, more or less agreeing with me."

"It wasn't through lack of effort on my part, because I wanted to do well — that's for sure. I enjoy playing football, but you've got to get a certain amount of pleasure and joy out of it, otherwise it becomes very hard work."

"I haven't decided to stay at Maine Road, but I'm a professional footballer. I take every game as it comes and whilst I'm at Manchester City I will continue to give my best."

In recent weeks Mike has begun to hit the goal trail again. "That's nothing unusual for me," he says. "It's been my life scoring goals. It wasn't my goalscoring record that made me unhappy. I grabbed 14 last term in 38 matches, which isn't a bad average, considering I suffered a stack of injuries."

"This term, talking before the Easter period, I notched 15 and there are still nine matches to go. I've scored goals through the good times and I've scored goals through the bad times. But there's more to my game than just getting my name on the scoresheet. I'm not a Malcolm Macdonald or a Bob Latchford who simply contribute on the goalscoring side. I've a great deal more to offer than that to any team."

"I'm a big name, and when I arrived at Maine Road it looked as if the club were ready to take everything by storm. But it never worked out the way we all wanted it to. Somebody has got to be the scapegoat — not that I consider myself that."

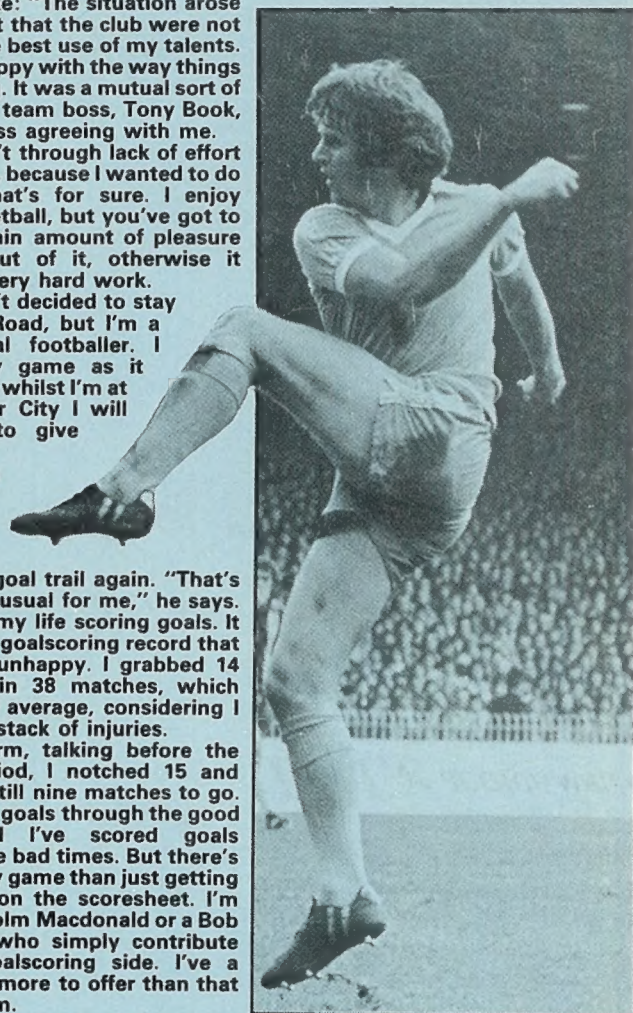
"I think everybody expected miracles and so little has happened through no fault of mine. It was one of those situations where it's fatal to guarantee anything in football."

"There are lots of reasons why City are so low down in the League table this term, but I don't think you can really put your finger on any one thing. The fans have obviously been disappointed because they wanted success and it hasn't arrived."

"In the past the club have had

some very talented players, but, like myself, they haven't always got the best out of them. This is an area that needs to be exploited, no matter who they buy; over the years I think it's been one of City's major downfalls."

"Malcolm Allison has made an immense difference since he joined us as chief coach. He's changed our style considerably and, I think, for the better. We're more positive in our approach. We look to go forward and to get people pushing up, with our sights firmly fixed on scoring goals."



"Manchester City is a big club and a lot of Allison's policies are very good. There is a need to progress and to be successful. But you won't be successful by keeping the ball. Success doesn't come from how much of the ball you have. It comes from what you do with it when you have it."

"I feel that the club is definitely looking to the future and towards an injection of some younger lads. During the summer things will gradually begin to sort themselves out. Next term I think we'll all see a better Manchester City."

"From my own point of view my feelings are that I've been through a spell where I thought I was getting nowhere. But all that's behind me now. Hopefully the future augurs well."

ASA HARTFORD
Man. City



SHOOT!